AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

Designed to improve the Farmer, the Planter, and the Gardener.

AGRICULTURE IS THE MOST HEALTHFUL, THE MOST USEFUL, AND THE MOST NOBLE EMPLOYMENT OF MAN.—WASHINGTON.

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A TRIP TO THE WEST—No. 2.

DUBUQUE — THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI.

Dubuque is well situated on a high bottom of the west bank of the Mississippi, in Iowa, latitude 42½° North, and opposite the dividing east and west lines of the State of Illinois and Wisconsin. The position of the town is eligible, except the plain on which it stands is too narrow, extending back only eighty or a hundred rods from the shore, behind which the formidable stone-quarried bluffs rise almost perpendicularly two hundred feet, and then spread into fine rolling table-land far away west into the interior. These bluffs are pierced with deep ravines every mile or two, through which small streams gush along, swollen heavily after every rain, and debouch into the ever-changing channel of the river. At times the bluffs impend directly above the stream, affording scarce room for a secure highway. At others they retreat farther back, leaving broad, sunny spots of great fertility, sites for noble farms or beautiful towns. Such an one is occupied by Dubuque. It is commodiously laid out, with wide streets, well built with brick and stone houses—many of them in a good style of architecture, and not a few in pretty taste. Several respectable churches and school-houses also decorate the town. It is an old settlement—for that country—the site having been occupied about the same time as Galena. Like Galena, too, it has extensive lead mines on all sides for many miles out, and is the chief point of deposit on the west side of the river for their products. The place has some 12,000 people, as the census just now completed foots up.

Desirous of examining the mines, we procured a companion, and went out a few miles west of the town for this purpose. Ascending the bluff by a circuitous and rather steep road in the side of a ravine, we arrived at the summit, on which are built, scattered among the natural groves, many tasteful houses looking out over the town, the broad river, and the valley which lay beneath for several miles up and down, in the midst of which swept along the noble river cut into numerous channels by long, low islands covered with water-willows, alders, and young growths of cotton-wood. The scene, warmed by the mild rays of an October sun, was soft and very beautiful, yet wild, and for the most part uncultivated, but enlivened by the occasional passing up or down of one of those fantastic-looking, low-hulled steamboats which plow their tortuous way over thes fitful waters. A straggling village extending westward lay along the main road on the table land beyond the bluff. This, in "old times," was the stopping-place for the huge ox wagons which brought in the produce of the country, and carried out, though in greatly diminished quantity of tunnage, the supplies landed at the lower town from the passing boats. We met numerous ox-trains with their rather rough-looking drivers coming in laden with wheat from many miles inland, which the present high price—a dollar a bushel, and upwards—had hurried out. These many ox wagons brought to mind a story told us some dozen years ago by Gen. Wilson, of New-Hampshire, at that time Surveyor General of Iowa, and residing at Dubuque. On his arrival there, he took lodgings at the best tavern in the town—and none too good, at that—with a widow woman who kept it, and had been long a resident. He had observed the course of trade, the rough and helter-skelter habits of the miners who drew their loads of lead-ore into town with ox-teams, which, for the most part, were a sorry looking set. One day at the table, seated near the old lady and familiarly chatting, the General remarked: "Well, my good woman, what sort of a place is this mining country, after all?" "Why, I'll tell you, Gin'ral," responded she; "its quite a tolerable place for hosses and men; but its awful on wimmen and oxen!" We think, however, the oxen have a better time of it now than in those purely lead-hauling times, for they looked for the most part, in quite good condition; and as for the women, they appeared as gay, dressy, and fashionable, and quite as much at their own command as we passed them along the streets, as in any other of our bustling towns. Manners have mended somewhat, probably, with "wimmen and oxen," if not with "hosses and men."

From the imperfect descriptions we had received of these "lead diggings," we had supposed that they greatly defaced the surface and injured the agriculture of the mining neighborhoods. It is but little so, however. Where lead is plentifully found, many spots have been dug into, but the usual course is to sink a shaft some feet into the earth, and indications of ore, or otherwise, will appear within a reach of fifteen, twenty, or thirty feet. If promising, the shaft is pursued; if otherwise, it is soon abandoned. When a "lead" is "struck," it usually runs in or near a horizontal line for some feet in depth and breadth. That "lead" is then followed in whatever direction it pursues; the ore taken out with picks, and brought in barrows, or otherwise, to the foot of the shaft, and drawn up in tubs by a windlass worked usually by horse or ox power. It is then washed to get off the adhering earth which surrounds it as it lies in veins in its bed, and sent away in wagons to the smelting furnaces in or near the town. Water, for the purposes of washing, is generally found in the ravines, or by digging a few feet, and many times in the shafts themselves, where pumps have to be applied by ox or horse power to free them. Some of these ore-veins run hundreds of yards zig zaging beneath the surface some distance. If these continue far, other shafts are opened from the surface down to them to admit air, and take out the ore. We were told of one shaft, through which and its continuous "leads," the fortunate owner has already cleared $60,000 over expenses, and was still in profitable work.

In others, perhaps, half that amount has been expended without a dollar of compensation; but so exciting is the occupation, that a digger hardly ever "gives up" until either his last dollar is exhausted, or he has "struck a profitable lead;" and even in the last hour of extremity has the toiling miner touched a vein which ultimately made his fortune! The ore lies in all shapes of deposit, from the boulder of many pounds' weight, down to equal-sided lamina no larger than a bean. It is of various purity, yielding from sixty to ninety per cent of pure lead, some of the scoria being simply the elastic skin that coats it as taken from the mines. Little shanties are built near the shafts for the occupation of the miners, who are mostly foreigners—either Welsh or English. They seem to like the employment, and as cheerfully toil in the depths and damps, scores of feet under ground, as in the cheerful sunlight of heaven—a matter chiefly of education and habit, we fancy.

The country lying off through the mining district is gently rolling, with timbered ridges interspersed, low bushes, and a sort of prairie, with short wild grass growing upon it. Hereabouts, however, it is mostly occupied in farms, the proprietors usually bargaining with the miners at a certain price in money for digging into their grounds, or taking a share of the ore, at the rate of a fifth or sixth of the produce. A shaft once abandoned, the proprietor fills it up and plows or plants it over.

On our return to the town we visited a

smelting establishment a mile below, and saw the pure lead run off into the heavy pigs for market. The mode is very simple. The ore is thrown into a large iron kettle, mixed with charcoal. It is then ignited and blown underneath with a powerful bellows driven by a huge flat wheel trod by oxen. A sort of pitcher-spout, just below the top of the kettle, in front, passes off the pure molten lead into a second cauldron, while the scoria which rises on the surface, like froth, is kept back by flat iron spaddles used by the hand. From this second kettle, with a renewed heat, and a pushing back of the scum like the other, it passes into the molds, where it is finished for market.

THE MISSISSIPPI.

The "Father of Waters" here indicates little of that power and grandeur which, in high flood, mark its course below the confluence of the Missouri and Ohio, some hundreds of miles below. It is a placid, pleasant stream; dark, but not muddy, of perhaps half a mile in width, separated into sundry shifting channels inclosing the islands which scatter along its bed. These islands are mostly too low for cultivation, and are, in consequence, of little practical value. As a channel for navigation it has many checks and hindrances, except in high water; but with boats of light draft—2½ to 4 feet—serves a tolerable purpose for the wants of the country. As railways increase, the impediments in its navigation will be less regarded, and the stream mainly used in high water to float off the lumber and heavy produce from the country along its borders. Draining a vast country of great fertility, in a mild and healthful climate, the banks of the Upper Mississippi must sustain large and populous towns, an extensive business, and draw from far and near great stores of wealth. Already railroads are snorting at short intervals along its borders, and stretching westwardly far into the interior, aiding and invigorating a population which are to become almost illimitable in numbers. In amenity of surface, in strength of soil, in the variety and utility of its productions to sustain human life, no stream on earth can surpass, in the length and breadth of its ramifications, this "mighty Mississippi." Spending a pleasant day, with a good night's rest at the excellent hotel of Capt. Kingman, the next morning, bright and clear, saw us again on our return eastward, some sixty miles, to Freeport; where, at the junction of the railways, we took our course southward over the longest single track in America, through

CENTRAL ILLINOIS.

The first thirty-six miles after leaving Freeport is tolerably settled in farms, and occasional villages. The several small tributaries of the Rock River, the banks of which are wooded, and some slightly elevated timbered ridges, gives the country an agreeable appearance for one so uniformly level. Many of the farms are well cultivated, with good buildings, both houses and barns—some, indeed, with the appearance of rural elegance. Many young orchards were planted, and every thing wears the look of improvement.

DIXON

town on the Rock River, occupying the valley and rising ground on both sides of the stream. It is well built with stone, brick, and wooden houses and stores, and has several handsome churches, and a fine school or two of high order. The water-power of the river gives activity to several mills and manufacturing establishments of different kinds; and the town, as we passed it, has the appearance of freshness, growth, business, and enterprise. Fine limestone abounds along the banks of the river of excellent building quality. Passing again on to the table-lands south, the timbered ridges become less frequent, and the surface assumes the dull, monotonous appearance of an almost boundless savannah, slightly undulating at times, with an occasional depression, or wide ravine, through which the surface-water sluggishly passes off to a distant stream, until some forty miles brings us to the vicinity of the Illinois river, indicated by broken surfaces, oak openings, and deep ravines, out of which crop immense quarries of limestone. After two or three miles of these we come to the immediate banks of the stream.

LA SALLE, AND PERU.

The first of these towns lies on the high table-land overlooking the river and its valley to the south, and elevated perhaps fifty feet above. It is a new, growing town of considerable business, and stretches southwest down for a mile, perhaps, where it meets Peru, at which point the Illinois and Michigan canal from Chicago unites with the river. The locks of the canal furnish a water-power to several mills, which, with the transhipment of the property conveyed either way by the canal and river boats, give active employment to several thousand population. The two places constitute, in fact, one town, so far as business is concerned; the railway passing La Salle, while the tunnage for the boats is transhipped at Peru. With the increasing agriculture of the country, its trade, and its travel, the two places combined must, in time, sustain a large and a wealthy population. The canal, which appears to be a commodious and well finished structure, passes immediately below the rather streep descent of the table-land on which the towns are built, and closely contiguous flows the Illinois, a fine—even a beautiful—stream, in itself of perhaps a hundred and fifty yards wide.

The bottoms lying along the river are too low for the best cultivation—their principal drawback; nor are they wide, which detracts much from the agricultural value, and mars, to a considerable extent, its completeness as an otherwise noble river with adequate surroundings. A substantial and costly bridge crosses the stream, over which, and the adjoining bottom for several hundred feet we passed, meeting the wooded table-land on the south, and again wound up by a deep side cutting on to the open prairie.

He e enter the vast expanse of almost limitless prairie that stretches now for a hundred miles or more through the heart of the State. Afar off were seen occasional glades of wood. The little villages along the road, some of which were scarcely more than stations with the houses of the railroad employees and laborers about them, were bare of a single tree or bush. The nucleus of a future town was now and then indicated by piles of lumber, some brick, and stone, and the embryo commencemet of—locust or cotton-wood groves, gave signs of *intention* to have *some woods* by and by. Some newly settled farms were scattered along, with corn crops lying unfenced; some with post and rail fences—after a fashion—but where the posts and rails came from it would take a Yankee to guess. Again, fields inclosed with post and board fence lay along the road. These fences *came from Chicago!* An occasional drove of cattle were seen at a distance, ranging over the prairie, and some close by, as we passed; but they were ordinary looking things, and for the most part in low condition. Some horses, mares, and colts grazed not far away, also. They, of course, were in the neighborhood of the farms. Then again, we rode for miles and miles, out of sight of tree or house, with only the stretched-out prairie and the open sky in sight. Besides our companions in the cars, except an occasional flock of prairie hens and sandhill cranes, no sign of life was visible. It *did* look lonesome. Then again, we could see, in the far distance, a house, all alone by itself, reminding us of a sail at sea. All these lands, for miles on each side of the road, are owned, or were lately, by the State of Illinois and the Railroad Company, granted many years ago by the General Government to the State to aid in building the road, and one-half of which the State gave to the Railroad Company to aid *them* in its construction. These lands, on both branches of the road, are now rapidly selling out, by both State and Company, at prices from five to twenty dollars an acre, and by the facilities of market and transportation which the road gives, will soon be settled, and improved. Timber, lumber, firewood, coal, and stone, will be brought to them by the road. Brick can be made on the ground. Trees will be planted by the million, and in the course of a comparatively short time the country will assume a habitable and comfortable look. We passed some fifteen or twenty miles of young Osage orange hedge, planted by the Company. It was done by simply ridging with plows a space about six feet wide on each side of the track, which is quite a hundred feet in breadth. The plants had one year's growth, averaging perhaps three feet high. They looked thrifty and promising. If the frosts are not too hard upon them, and the plants properly cared for, they will, unquestionably, make a good fence.

TIMBER PLANTATIONS.

It appeared to us as we passed along, that it would be good policy for a Company so rich in lands as that of the Illinois Central Road, to adopt a system of growing extensive plantations of young timber for the use of the settlers upon their lands. This proposition may be answered by saying that the Company have other business of its own to

attend to, and that each settler can best provide for himself in that particular. But when it is considered that, with its great capital, and by constituting a department of this kind by itself on some of their broad acres—under the superintendence of a competent man—they could do it to much better advantage than the limited means and the hurried occupations of new settlers will permit them to do, and thus, at a moderate price, supply millions of trees, which they can easily deliver at any given point along the road, it does appear to us that a far-seeing policy tending to the enhancement in the prices of its lands, and an increased carriage on the road would indicate the wisdom of such a course. The Lombardy poplar, the cotton-wood, the large golden willow, the yellow locust, and ailanthus grow with wonderful rapidity on their lands when planted and protected. So do the oaks, hickories, and walnuts, and in five years from the planting of seeds, millions of trees could be sold for stocking the farms with the germ of respectable forests. It is supposed by intelligent men that there is now much more growing wood in the State of Illinois than there was thirty years ago when the country was new, merely from the preservation of the natural forests from fires, and the planting of young trees. The cotton-wood, Lombardy poplar, golden willow, and even the peach, which grows rapidly in the prairies, make excellent fuel when dry. The latter is grown already in some places for that purpose, and their introduction under a good system of cultivation would be of lasting service to the country at large, as well as profitable to the company.

As we approach

BLOOMINGTON,

which lies about one hundred and thirty miles southwest of Chicago, the straggling tributary waters of the Sangamon are skirted more or less with timber. The lands are better than those lying north, and the country more thickly settled. Many beautiful farms with comfortable buildings lay along under shelter of the timbered ridges. Great corn-fields, wheat, the cultivated grasses, orchards, and the other appliances of good agriculture, were now frequent. Bloomington is a fine town, lying half a mile west of the road, the capital of McLean County—an old town for *this* country, wealthy and comfortable. The country so continued on to

DECATUR,

the capital of Macon County, some forty-five miles farther south, and still along the waters of the Sangamon, which is said, by the partial dwellers there, to be the richest agricultural portion of the State. Egypt, they call it—way along southwest towards the Mississippi, embracing Springfield, the capital of the State, Jacksonville, the chief seat of its colleges, and its far-around country—so prolific is it in great corn and wheat fields, wide pasture lands, numerous droves of mules, horses, cattle, sheep, and swine. One family—McConnel by name—consisting of father and sons, keep twenty thousand fine-wooled sheep! and grand ones they are, too, if those we saw of theirs at Chicago are fair specimens of their flocks. Several fine herds of Short Horns are hereabouts, on the wide farms of the Kentuckians, Ohioans, and Virginians, together with some broad-landed Yankees who dwell thereon. Sixty-three miles further down, through a tolerably well settled country and improving farms, with occasional new villages, is

VANDALIA,

for many years the Capital of the State, before it was removed to the more central locality of Springfield. Of course, by such removal, this town is shorn of its once brilliant prospects as a *great* city. But it is still a place of local trade for the country about it, and its contiguity to the railroad will always render its position advantageous. Passing

CENTRALIA

twenty-six miles farther down, a mere station now, where the Chicago branch strikes off north-easterly from the main trunk of the road, two hundred and sixty odd miles to Lake Michigan, we shortly came into the thinner and oak-timbered lands of southern Illinois. These are sparsely settled. The soil is comparatively poor, not natural to rich grasses, or corn, but contains much lime, and is good for wheat and other cereal grains. Through a long and rather dull ride, with occasional stations and trifling villages, a hundred and twenty miles farther we came upon the deeper soil, larger and more varied timber trees, and finally struck out on to the Ohio, along which we coursed circuitously for two or three miles to the extreme southwest corner of the State.

Here, four hundred and fifty-four miles by railway from Dunleith, and three hundred and sixty-two from Chicago, every inch of it—816 miles—that railroad, owned, occupied and to be run when completed, by the Illinois Central Railroad Company, we reached the site of the long-contemplated city at the junction of the "beautiful" Ohio and the "mighty" Mississippi.

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—In another column will be found the call for the annual meeting of the Society, which will take place at Washington January 9th.

THE Connecticut State Agricultural Society's annual meeting will be held at New-Haven, on Wednesday, January 2, at 10 A. M. The annual address prepared for the State Exhibition in October, but postponed on account of the weather, will be delivered at the time of the annual meeting.

THE New-York State Poultry Society will hold an annual exhibition at Albany commencing Tuesday, February 2. Premium lists can be obtained of E. E. Platt, Cor. Sec. at Albany, or of C. M. Scholefield at Yorkville, Oneida County.

WE call the attention of Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, and of farmers generally to the advertisement of Messrs. Saxton & Co. By the way, Messrs. Saxton & Co. have recently moved into their new and splendid rooms, including a reading room, at No. 140 Fulton-st., where those visiting the city will find the best assortment of agricultural books, periodicals, &c., in the country.

CHANGES AMONG OUR EXCHANGES.

The beginning of a new year brings a number of changes in the proprietorships and editorships of agricultural journals, of which we note the following:

FARM JOURNAL, published by Sam'l Emlen & Co., Philadelphia. Mr. J. L. Darlington, for some time past the able editor of this journal, has retired from his post, and is succeeded by David M. Wells & A. M. Spangler. Mr. Wells is the editor of the Annual of Scientific Discovery, and of the Year Book of Agriculture. Mr. Spangler was the original editor of the Farm Journal. Under the auspices of these gentlemen we trust this paper will continue to maintain, and even advance its former high character.

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GENESEE FARMER, published by Jas. Vick, Rochester, N. Y. Mr. Vick had several years experience formerly as publisher of this paper, and he is now making exertions to enlarge its size and increase the value of its pages. He has secured the services as editor of Mr. Joseph Harris, who was formerly connected with the Genesee Farmer, afterwards with the Rural New-Yorker, and during the past year with the Country Gentleman. Mr. Harris is one of the few agricultural editors in this country to whose writings on the chemistry of agriculture we give much credit for reliability and scientific correctness. We are really sorry not to be able hereafter to find the weekly editorial contributions of Mr. H. in the columns of so excellent a journal as we consider the Country Gentleman, and shall be glad to find his place well supplied. We suppose local circumstances—residence of friends and family connections—induced Mr. H. to return to Rochester, and we trust that in his new position, with the pages of the Farmer under his control, he will enjoy an extended and widening sphere of usefulness.

Since the above was put in type, we learn that Mr. Harris will still furnish occasional editorial contributions to the Country Gentleman. We also omitted to state, that Mr. Luther Tucker has associated with him his son, Mr. Luther H. Tucker, in the publishing and editorial departments of that paper, the Cultivator, &c.

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OHIO CULTIVATOR.—Mr. Bateham has sold out his interest and retired from the editorial charge of this journal, to pursue his favorite nursery business. Col. S. D. Harris, for five years past the associate editor, has now become editor and proprietor. Mrs. Bateham remains in charge of the Ladies' Department. All success to the Colonel; may he soon be commander of an army of a hundred thousand.

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CONN. VALLEY FARMER.—This journal has become merged into the New-England Farmer. We had a little score to settle with Prof. Nash about "them bones," but we will let that pass now, especially as Prof. N.'s charge of inconsistency was wholly founded

upon an entirely incorrect report of an old "speech" of ours which found its way into the Doings of the "New-York Farmers' Club"—so called—given in the Transactions of the American Institute.

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VALLEY FARMER.—This old agricultural monthly, edited and published at St. Louis, Mo., for a number of years past, by Mr. E. Abbott, is hereafter to be published simultaneously at St. Louis and Louisville, Ky., by H. P. Byram, under the joint editorship of Norman J. Coleman, Ephraim Abbott & H. P. Byram.

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CAROLINA CULTIVATOR, Raleigh, N. C.—The publisher, Mr. W. D. Cooke, has secured the editorial services of Prof. B. S. Hedricks, Professor of Agricultural Chemistry in the University of North-Carolina.

THAT PUMPKIN.

Providence, R. I., has lately become noted for a "fever-and-ague medicine," (Rhodes',) and well it may, if the very soil thereabouts produces quinine pumpkins. We have drank cinchona decoctions, taken quinine in Allopathic doses, made wry faces over quassia tea, and played "shut your eyes and open your mouth" to a dose of boneset—but all these mixed, and "boiled down," would hardly produce such contortions of visage, as our "sub" exhibited when we got him to taste the specimen slice of a Rhode-Island pumpkin, received from Messrs. J. Balch & Son, druggists, of Providence, just as we had written out our last "item" for the December number.

We carefully examined this pumpkin—it may be a squash—it may be a cross of the two—we cut it in several places, and the aforesaid "sub" tried the seeds, and tasted a portion of every part, in hopes of taking away the taste of the last piece, and his final decision, uttered with emphasis, was, "It's ALL bitter!" Said pumpkin was raised by Dr. A. C. Whitman, of Fiskville, R. I.

Our first impression was that the doctor's "student" had emptied the quassia or quinine bottle on the ground where this pumpkin grew, or that he had soaked it in tansy or impregnated it with wormwood. But still the specimen appeared to be a natural growth, and we wrote to Dr. Whitman for something of its history, of the manure used, the plants growing around it, &c. We will inquire whether any one else has seen anything of the kind. It resembles both a pumpkin and a squash, in size, shape, color, and general appearance. We give Dr. Whitman's letter:

FISKVILLE, December, 1855.

MR. JUDD: Dear Sir—I received your note of the 1st inst., soliciting further information respecting the "bitter pumpkin." I will give you the history of it as far as I can.

Last spring, while preparing to plant some cucumbers, I discovered this plant, and as it looked very thrifty I concluded to let it grow. My cucumbers were twice eaten up by the striped bug, but this plant was unmolested—no bug or worm disturbing it. On one side of it was planted beets, parsnips, radishes, &c., and on the other musk and water-melons. The manure was stable and hog-pen manure made on the lot. The plot on which it grew has been used for a vegetable garden for a number of years. I do not know of anything having been put upon the ground that could have produced such a growth, and I am sure it was not impregnated with any bitter substance after it grew. The vine was very prolific, for this one stalk or vine produced, I think, fourteen pumpkins, or squashes, whichever you choose to call them. I have six or eight of them now. * * * Very respectfully yours,

W. C. WHITMAN.

Perhaps some of the curious will be sufficiently interested to send to Dr. Whitman for a few of the seeds. Why might not the extract of this "vegetable" be a good specific for the fever and ague, if it can be propagated? It is certainly *bitter* enough, if bitterness is all that is required for that ailing.

MR. THORNE'S IMPORTATION OF CATTLE.

By the steamer Washington, recently arrived at this port, Mr. Samuel Thorne, of Washington, Dutchess Co., N. Y., imported two very superior Short Horn bulls.

NEPTUNE (11,847), deep roan, calved Nov. 14th, 1850, bred by Mr. John Booth of Killerby, England; got by Water King (11,024), out of Bloom, by Buckingham (3,239), &c. His dam, Bloom, was bred by Mr. Richard Booth, and was a great favorite with him.

Neptune is one of the most imposing looking bulls, especially in front, that was ever imported into the United States. His horns, head and eyes are fine, with a slightly arched and well set neck. He is short on the legs, and possesses a very deep, wide brisket, together with great depth of flank—thus making him a large animal in a moderate compass. We need not inform those who are conversant with Short Horns, that Mr. Booth's stock has a great reputation in England, and we are informed that Neptune ranked there as among the best bulls of his breeding.

GRAND DUKE 2D (12,961), nearly all red, calved Sept. 22d, 1853; got by 4th Duke of York (10,167), out of Dutchess 64th, by 2d Duke of Oxford (9,046), out of Duches 55th, by 4th Duke of Northumberland (3,649), &c. As to his breeder, Mr. Bolden claims to have bred him, and has so entered him in the English Herd Book, with what propriety, our readers will judge, when we inform them that Mr. Jonathan Thorne, the father of the importer, Mr. Samuel Thorne, purchased Grand Duke 2d's dam before he was calved, at the late Earl Ducie's sale, in the summer of 1853; but owing to an arrangement by which Mr. Thorne obtained Duchess 59 and 68, he left this calf with Mr. Bolden, soon after being dropped. Mr. T. has now paid Mr. B. the enormous price of 1,000 guineas ($5,000), just the amount his father paid for the first Grand Duke, also in his possession.

Grand Duke 2d we think fully equal, if not superior, to the first Grand Duke, which is saying perhaps as much as is necessary, to give the public a good idea of him. But to this we will add, that he is very stylish, and remarkably well ribbed up. As Short Horns are generally inferior in this point to their distinguished rivals, the Herefords and Devons, to be well ribbed up is a great desideratum in bulls of this breed.

We think the public under much obligation to Mr. Thorne for his spirit and enterprise in these importations. It will be recollected that his father, in 1853, paid 600 guineas ($3,000) for Duchess 64, the dam of Grand Duke 2d. This Duchess is now in the possession of young Mr. T., and has already dropped two very fine calves to the first Grand Duke.

ABOUT WASHING.

The Agriculturist for 50 Cents!

Reader, suppose you keep a careful account during a year of the total amount of useful knowledge derived from the pages of this journal—putting together the direct benfit received, and the indirect profit resulting from the hints and suggestions thrown out from time to time. If you do this, we should hazard nothing in proposing to take one-half, or one-tenth of that sum, as full pay for the subscription. In twelve monthly numbers we give from 600 to 1,000 articles, on a great variety of topics. How many of these furnish you useful hints? We leave you to answer.

The price for a single subscription is only $1 a year. Now we will give you a recipe which is being sold all over the country at this time, for 50 cents to each purchaser. If it is worth this price to every family, as such buyers as we have talked with say it is, you have here, in this one article, 50 cts. worth of knowledge, which, deducted from the cost of the paper, leaves you only 50 cents additional expense for all the other 999 articles, more or less. Is not this as plain as simple subtraction? Here is an exact copy of the recipe, as sold about the country:

RECIPE FOR MAKING ONE BARREL OF SOAP.

1st. Cut in slices 25 pounds of bar soap of a good quality, and dissolve the same in 15 gallons of boiling water, and let it get cold, when it will be thick. 2d. Dissolve 13 lbs. of sal soda in 15 gallons *more* of boiling water, then add to the same water 2½ lbs. of unslacked lime. Let these articles boil together 15 minutes, and when cold, turn off this fluid and mix it gradually with the soap, not disturbing the sediment; then add 2 pints of alcohol and half pint of camphene; stir up together and it will be fit for use.

☞ Secresy enjoined. ☜

We enjoin secresy on all who read the above, for two reasons: First—The recipe says, "Secrecy enjoined"; and, second, if any persons want the recipe, they can subscribe for the paper and get it as you do.

We do not specially recommend this preparation, for two reasons: First—Because we do not like a mixture containing so much camphene—it might be absorbed and injure the washer; and then if Bridget should use too much of such a mixture, it might injure the articles washed. In small quantities it would doubtless answer well, and we feel quite certain the mixture is as good as any

of the washing fluids sold in the country for several years past, the recipes for most of which we have seen.

Our second reason for not recommending it is, that we have not tried it, and shall not so long as we have that most excellent prescription, first published in the Agriculturist, January 11th, 1854, called the "Borax Washing Recipe." This has been tried thousands of times, and we have heard it always commended when alluded to. Our clothing has been washed with the borax-soap for two years with the most satisfactory results. For the benefit of many new readers, and to refresh the memory of old ones, we will give the recipe again. It is as follows:

To each pound of common hard soap add from one-half to three-quarters of an ounce of common borax, with one quart of water. Put the water in any convenient vessel upon the stove, add the borax, somewhat pulverized, and then put in the soap cut up in thin pieces. Keep them hot—but not boiling—for two or three hours, or until the whole is well dissolved, and then set it aside to cool, when a solid mass will be formed. If the vessel is set upon the warm stove at night, the operation will be completed in the morning, though we think it better to stir the mass just before it is cooled.

The night before washing, rub the clothes where most soiled, with the soap, and soak in water till morning. This soap, which has been more than doubled in quantity, will go quite as far, bulk for bulk, as the original, thus saving at least one-half. The boiling and washing are to be performed in the usual manner; but it will be found that the labor of rubbing is diminished three-fourths, while the usual caustic or eating effect of the soap, is greatly lessened; and the hands will retain a peculiarly soft and silky feeling, even after a large washing. The preparation is adapted to all kinds of fabrics, colored or uncolored, including flannels, and is thought to increase their whiteness.

STUMP MACHINES.—Mr. Benjamin Richards, of Jones' Creek, Randolph Co., Ill., inquires concerning the best "Stump Machine;" where one can be obtained, its price, &c.; or the best mode of constructing one that will extract stumps 20 to 30 inches in diameter. We know of none for sale. Any information on this subject, addressed directly to Mr. Richards, or, if of general interest, furnished for the columns of this paper, will be thankfully received.

CANADA SUBSCRIBERS will of course remember that a part of their postage must be prepaid here, and provide therefor. The postage necessary to be prepaid here is 12 cents per annum on the American Agriculturist, and 26 cents a year on the Times.

J. G. J., OF MAINE: We do not know that the Discorea Japonica, is on sale in this city or elsewhere. It is quite doubtful whether the Wyandot corn will ripen so far north as your State. It failed this year in the latitude of Albany, N. Y. We should, however, advise an experiment with this as with all similar matters on a small scale at first.

J. F.—Readington, N. J.—Thanks for a letter and seeds, which came in after the paper was in type—will be noticed in our next.

N. Y. STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The Annual or Winter Meeting will be held at Albany, on Wednesday, February 11th. See advertisement.

THE BROOKLYN (CT.) FARMERS CLUB—one of the oldest and most successful in the country—have this winter adopted the plan of holding their meetings at the houses of the members, after the manner of the ladies' sewing circles. This is an excellent plan, where the number attending is not too large; though *every* farming neighborhood ought to have agricultural club meetings so large that no private house would accommodate them. The method pursued by some of the clubs in Westchester and Dutchess Counties, N. Y., is perhaps the best, where it can be carried out: We refer to their day meetings upon the farms of the different members. This gives an opportunity to study the soil, crops, implements and practice of the several persons visited.

CALIFORNIA WHEAT CROP.—The Alta California of Nov. 5th, says that Dr. Trask, the State Geologist, has returned from a tour throughout the whole of the northern, central and southern portions of the State. He estimates the consumption of flour at 370,000 barrels a year; and from the investigation he has made, gives it as his opinion that the total yield of the present year will not exceed 390 or 395,000 barrels of flour, leaving 20 or 25,000 barrels for export, or five times that amount in wheat for seed. He also states that there is only one county in the State which this year has produced a full crop, viz., Yole. The yield in this county averages thirty bushels to the acre. Colusi comes next, producing 28 bushels to the acre. The average yield throughout the State is estimated by Dr. Trask at seventeen or eighteen bushels. There was fifteen per cent more land sown with wheat this year than last, and the falling off in the aggregate production is attributed to the inferiority of the yield, smut, rust, grass-hoppers, &c. In Los Angelos and San Bernardo the wheat crop proved a total failure, and the people, as soon as it was found out, were forced to put in corn, and succeeded in raising a small crop.

OUR EXCHANGES will confer a favor by calling special attention to the general character of this paper, and saying such favorable things of us as they can consistently. We make this request with more freedom because we are sending the Agriculturist to a large number of papers from which, on account of their different character, we derive no particular benefit except from such notices.

CORN CROP IN VIRGINIA.—Mr. J. C. Cohoon, of Nansemond County, Virginia, states in a private letter that the corn crop for the past season has rarely been surpassed within his recollection, extending over a period of about sixty years.

GRANARIES.—L. Salaville, of Paris, has taken out a patent for constructing grain storehouses by having an air chamber under the floor of the grain-room, and by having the floor on which the grain is laid pierced with small holes, through which currents of air are to be forced by a blowing machine.

PRESERVING AND SENDING EGGS TO MARKET.

The number of eggs daily brought to this market is almost incredible. These are now gathered from all the western States, where they have generally been preserved in lime-water first, and afterward packed in barrels with oats and sent forward by canal and rail-road. Three years ago we chanced in a small town in the interior of Ohio, and noted the current price of eggs as 5c.a6c. per doz., at this season of the year. The local paper published in that town quoted eggs last week at 17c. per dozen, and recently we saw a barrel of eggs from the same town standing in the store of an "egg merchant" in Washington-st., for which he had paid 19½c. per dozen delivered here.

This branch of trade has become greatly enlarged and systematized within a year or two past. The country merchants in western towns, take in eggs and "pay in goods." These they pack and send direct to a commission merchant here, or more frequently sell them out to migratory dealers at the nomial cost price, depending upon the profits on their "goods" for their remuneration. The traveling dealers frequently have on hand half a million or more of eggs, and sales of 50 to 150 barrels (containing 75 to 80 dozen each) to a single egg merchant, are very common transactions.

We had the curiosity to make a little inquiry as to the number of eggs annually brought into this city, and, for this purpose, called upon several of the largest egg merchants. The books of ten of these exhibit an aggregate of receipts and sales, for twelve months past, of nearly thirty-six millions. Further inquiry showed that this is not quite one-third of all sold here. The annual consumption of eggs in this city may be set down, in round numbers, at full ONE HUNDRED MILLIONS.

A dealer in Cleveland, Ohio, sent forward 1,200 barrels to a single dealer here during the present year. The supply is seldom equal to the demand, even at the high rates usually prevailing, and the business may be doubled or trebled without sinking prices below a remunerative figure. A glance at our weekly quotations shows that the average price, during the past year, has been full seventeen cents per dozen.

We began, however, to note the manner of preserving and packing these eggs. The method now usually adopted is to take them as fresh as possible and immerse them in lime-water. This is prepared by putting a few quarts of unslacked lime in a tight barrel or cask, and then partly fill the vessel with water. It is allowed to stand a few

days until the water has become saturated with lime, and the carbonic acid of the air has diminished its causticity somewhat; the eggs are then carefully immersed in the liquid. Some stir up the lime from the bottom, so as to form a milky mass. This is not necessary, and does not leave the eggs as clean and neat as is desirable. A small layer of lime in the bottom of the cask is sufficient to keep the water saturated. Some packers add a small quantity of salt to the lime "to keep the pickle sweet." This is, perhaps, generally advisable, as it will do no harm if the quantity be small; and by many, salt is believed to be beneficial. We have known eggs kept for a length of time by simply placing them in a weak brine, but the salt penetrates and somewhat injures the quality; other packers add about an ounce of cream of tarter to the lime water for each twelve dozen eggs. This is said to keep the lime from adhering to the shells, thus preserving them in a neater condition.

Eggs are usually sent forward in barrels, packed in oats. To make them secure, about one quart of oats is required to each dozen, or say two and a half bushels to a barrel containing seventy-five to eighty doz. We saw some barrels packed in this way opened to-day, which were forwarded from Ohio and Indiana, and, notwithstanding jolting on carts and in loading upon railroad and canal, scarcely one in a hundred was broken or cracked. We saw one barrel opened which was limed last spring, packed in oats in September, and received here on Saturday. The shells were nearly as clean as before pickling; there were but sixteen which were not translucent when held to a candle, and but one egg, out of 930 in the barrel, which was broken.

TESTING EGGS.

The process of testing eggs is very simple, though not generally understood. Take them into a dark room and hold them between the eye and a lighted candle or lamp. The least variation from perfect soundness will be clearly shown by a lack of uniform translucency. With a very little practice, any one can accurately inspect eggs as fast as he can pick them up, three in each hand, and pass them before the candle. If this simple method of testing eggs was adopted by all dealers, we should have a hundred times less defective eggs sent to this market, and there would not be so great a difference between fresh and western eggs, as our market quotations now show.

To Poach Eggs.—Have on the fire a frying-pan with water fast boiling, break each egg into a separate cup, slip them carefully into the boiling water; when the white is quite set, the eggs are done. Take them up with a slice, and serve on buttered toast or bread and butter. Fried eggs are done in the same manner, only instead of water a little fat is used, or a rasher of bacon.

A parent who strikes a child in anger, is like a man who strikes the water; the consequences of the blow are sure to fly up in his own face.

BROOM CORN ITEMS.

Mr. Solyman G. Hamlin, of West Glenville, Schenectady Co., N. Y., writes to the Commissioner of Patents: Broom corn for many years has been cultivated to a considerable extent with us, especially on the "flat lands" lying along the Mohawk River, and is considered a profitable crop. The principal objections to growing it on "upland" are, that it makes no fodder or manure, except the stalks, which are but of little importance, either as a fertilizer or for feed. They are generally consumed in the field after the brush is taken off.

The usual method of cultivation is to plow the land in the spring, harrow it until the soil is pulverized and mellow, and then roll it down smooth with a revolving plank or log roller. The seed is sown with a drill as early in the spring as the condition of the ground will admit, in rows, at the distance of three feet apart, and from six to eight inches apart in the drills. As soon as the corn is above ground, a narrow space of ground on each side of the row is scraped with the hoe, to prevent the weeds from hindering its growth, the remaining space being left for the cultivator, which is frequently run to keep down the weeds. The cultivation is finally finished by running the plow twice to each row.

The brush is cut while green, and as often as convenient. As it grows from eight to twelve feet high, the tops are first bent or lopped to one side and cut, with seven or eight inches of the stalk left on. Each stalk composes a brush.

Mr. Elihu Smith, of Sunderland, Franklin Co., Mass., in a communication to the Board of Agriculture of that State, describes a plot of one acre and nine rods, on which broom corn had been raised the two previous years. During fall and winter 20 cords of muck mixed with 5½ cords of sheep manure was drawn out and placed in a heap in the field. In April, 18 bushels of ashes was added to the heap and the whole mixed and turned over. The 1st of May, the heap was shoveled over a second time, and May 15th, the manure was spread upon the plot and harrowed in. The field was then planted with a Woodward's corn-planter, and 100 lbs. of superphosphate of lime put in the hills. The land was cultivated and hoed four times. The third crop thus raised on the acre and nine rods yielded 1,025 lbs. of brush which sold for 10 cents per lb. Also 67 bushels of seed 40 lbs. to the bushel—which sold for one cent per lb. Total yield $129.30.

Expenses—plowing, harrowing, and planting $2,50; manure, $12; hoeing, $7; harvesting, scraping and cleaning seed, $10; interest on land, $7—Total, $38.50.

This leaves a net profit of $90.80 or $85.96 per acre, a fair showing, though we think the expenses are placed rather low, especially for the manure. The kind of soil should have been stated.

Mr. M. F. Myers, of Kingston, Luzerne Co., Pa., states that the average yield of seed in that region is 50 bushels per acre, which is worth 50 cents per bushel. He has known $85 per acre paid for the crop in the field before it was harvested.

For the American Agriculturist.

BAKING BEETS AND TURNIPS—JELLY CAKE—TAKING CARE OF THE FLOWERS.

I have seen it recommended in your paper to bake beets, instead of boiling them. I wish to add my testimony in favor of the method. Being washed with as little of the skin cut as possible, we bake them till done, when the outer skin is removed, and the beets served up according to taste. The sweet juices which inevitably escape while boiling, are retained and concentrated, and one who has never eaten them would be surprised at the superior flavor.

The ruta baga or sweet turnip is equally improved by the same method of cooking. Not being fond of, and therefore not eating the latter vegetable, I can not speak in its favor from personal experience, but the unanimous opinion of the turnip-loving members of the household is, that boiled turnips should be eschewed by all good cooks and housekeepers.

Let me tell you a way I have of making jelly-cake, that will keep moist and good for weeks and months. Take three eggs, beat them thoroughly; add one cup of sugar and one cup of flour. Stir these well together, and add one teaspoonful cream of tartar, and half a teaspoonful soda—the latter to be dissolved in a very little water. Bake in two pie tins, as evenly and quickly as possible, taking much care that it does not bake too hard around the edges. A sheet of writing paper laid over the top will often prevent it from burning, or browning too much. Have ready a clean towel or cloth, and when the cake is done, slip it out bottom side up on the cloth; then spread the uppermost side quite thickly with currant or other tart jelly, and commencing at the end, roll it up, when it will be a round compact roll. When used, slices are cut from the end. I never have seen the above in print, and give it hoping that it may prove new and interesting to some of your lady readers.

Cold weather is coming, girls, cover up your tender roses, bring in your hydrangeas, and see that all your plants are well cared for. I have often seen tender plants preserved through severe winters, by being covered with saw-dust, straw, or the like, and protected still further, by a large box inverted over the whole. * * Libbie.

Thank you Miss "Libbie," for your valuable hints. Will not you and a hundred others furnish similar items in such quantities, that we can select two or three pages of the most new and valuable for every number?

We are not at liberty to answer your question as to the real name of "Anna Hope." When she, like yourself, takes a *nom de plume*—(an assumed name) we are bound in honor to print that name only. We are wicked enough to excite farther curiosity by saying that "Anna Hope" is a niece of one who was at his death one of the greatest statesman of our country. She is herself the wife of one now occupying a public situation of high character. Precisely the

same may be said of her sister, Mary H. (See last volume page 67.) So "Eliza," (see same vol., pp. 105 and 210) is a daughter of one who held a very high political station in our country. If "Anna," and "Eliza," and "Mary," and "Minnie," and "Libbie," and sundry others of our esteemed lady contributors—who not only know how to write about, but also how to direct the affairs of the household so well by their own daily example—should at any future time wish for a familiar interview, they can arrange a meeting at our office, and we will then, with their permission, give a personal introduction. If "Libbie" should come, there would be a "sweet" interview; and should each bring along one article only of the cheap but beautiful household conveniences which their own hands have fabricated, our sanctum would be most conveniently "furnished."

For the American Agriculturist.

ONE WAY TO SOW RUTA BAGAS.

This is now so generally known to be an excellent turnip for feed during the winter months, and is such a general favorite, that I take the liberty of sending you the results of an experiment tried this season in its cultivation.

Having sown some seed on lists, or ridges, thrown up by the plow, they did not come up well, although put in at a good season and well covered, and the ground in fine order. Being compelled to sow again, I tried the following plan with complete success: The ground was plowed and harrowed, and the seed scattered broadcast and covered in with a gleaning rake, run both ways—lengthwise and across. They came up admirably, and when they had arrived at a size fit for working, I had one-half the teeth taken out of a harrow and harrowed them over just after a shower of rain. They afterward made rapid growth, and are now better by far than any I have on ridges, and a beautiful, even crop, with much less work.

I object to sowing in ridges, unless on very wet land, for the reasons that, these being above the general level, the ground dries so quick after sowing that the seed has not a fair chance to germinate, unless favorable weather ensue. If dry weather set in, the moisture of the land scarcely reaches the top of the ridges, in which case it is all dried out by 9 o'clock in the morning under a bright sun; and even if the seed come up well, they are more liable to be taken by the fly, than when sown on the level, as these little pests will attack them as soon as the soil is dry enough to be comfortable for them—which is much sooner the case on ridges than on the level ground. In sowing broadcast, the plants get the advantage of more moisture, beside being less trouble in sowing and working them.

The wheat gleaner, or Yankee rake, as it is called here, is the finest thing that I have ever tried for putting in turnip and other seeds. One man, with a horse, can cover more seed in an hour than three men can in a day with the old wooden hand-rake, and leave the ground in better order. With one boy and a pair of mules, or horses, he can work the seed in in a very short space of time, while the ground is in order. I intend putting the whole crop in next season in this way.—W. Summersbey, Virginia.

WASTE OF LIQUID MANURES.

The proper construction and location of barn-yards is a subject entitled to most respectful consideration. If the question, "are liquids flowing from manure heaps valuable?" were seriously submitted to the farmers of this country, it would provoke a smile of derision, that any one of common sense would propound so simple a query. And yet, notwithstanding this perfect knowledge of the fact that this liquid is comprised of a large portion of the most valuable fertilizing ingredients of the manure heap from which it flows, how very few farmers appear to consider it worth their while to save it from utter waste. We have been led to these remarks from having had very frequent opportunities during the past two months of observing the reckless indifference manifested by very many farmers in the consrtuction and location of their barn-yards. Indeed it appeared to us, that had it been the fixed design of the owners to afford the most complete escape for all the liquids from their barn-yards, they could not have accomplished it more effectually. It is almost impossible to conceive of a more complete disregard of true economy. The farmer who year after year witnesses the streams of rich liquid manure flowing from his barn-yard to the nearest rivulet, to be lost to him forever; or running along the road side, rendering it unpleasant to the eyes and olfactories, has a poor right to complain if his crops are less abundant than his neighbors. Nor should it be a matter of surprise to him if after having applied the same quantity of manure, plowed as deeply, pulverized as thoroughly, and in every other respect given his crop the same attention, the yield should fall short of his who does not permit the washing rains to exhaust the most valuable portion of his manure heap.

It should be a cardinal principle with every farmer to economise his manures. Upon it depends his success, and without it, his labors must to a very great extent, be without profit, if not attended with absolute loss. If it is found necessary to have the barn-yard on a hill side, it is equally necessary to have the lower side of it protected by a wall, or some other arrangement by which the escape of liquid manure may be prevented. It is almost equally important to have a spout to convey the rain water from the roof of the barn in some other direction than directly through the barn-yard. It is bad enough that the manure heap should be exposed to the rains which fall directly upon it, without adding to it the droppings from the roof of the barn. If such improvident farmers were to behold the actual value of the fertilizing material thus lost, rolling from their purses in the shape of dollars and cents, how energetically would they labor to prevent the waste. The loss of a single little gold dollar would stir them up to greater activity than the direct waste of a hundred times that little gold dollar's value in the form of liquid manure. Year after year, silently but steadily, the golden streams are flowing from their purses. Tell them of their error, and they acknowledge it, but rarely does it happen that being reminded of it in a friendly manner, they make a single effort to correct it. How many are there, who after a life time of steady, unremitting toil, find themselves no richer in lands or money than when they began. They can not explain the reason. Other causes may have led to such discouraging results, but if the drain of liquid manures from their barn-yards had been checked when they began farming, very many of these unsuccessful ones would have been as prosperous as their more provident neighbors.—Progressive Farmer.

Female Jockeys.—At a recent horse-race in Doylstown, Pa., twelve females, each mounted on a "sporting horse," entered this list for the prize. Among these were three circus women from Philadelphia. They started and made the race in the presence of thirty thousand people. Commenting on the proceedings, the Buffalo Express remarks: "What a comment upon the taste, the morality of the times. Here are twelve females—the wonder and admiration of the gaping multitude—on a race-course, when they should have been adorning twelve households with the dignity of modest refinement. It would have been far better for them had they been engaged that afternoon over twelve wash-tubs, rather than riding twelve horses in a heat over a race-course surrounded by vile men and imprudent women. This is a kind of progress which bodes no good to a refined and moral-toned society. When our mothers, daughters and sisters turn horse-racers and gamblers, their influence upon the generation that follow will be such as to fill the earth with all manner of iniquity."

A nice Country to live in.—A gentleman who was doing well, but wanted to do better, in Kentucky, removed to a farther western State, and, in answer to a correspondent, wrote back the following flattering account of the country and its inhabitants:

"You ask me how I like the country and the people thereof. As to the land it is cheap as dirt, and good enough, but the climate is rainy, blowy and sultry. The people die so fast here that every man has his third wife, and every woman is a widow. As for the people they are perfect Christians; they fulfill the Scripture to the letter, where it says, "Let God be true, and every man a liar!"

A wag in Detroit has been taking liberties with the reputation of the Pontiac Railroad. He was asked if he knew of an accident on that road, and replied: "Never. But once a middle-aged gentleman left Pontiac for Detroit, and died of old age at Birmingham—half way!"

What is the difference between an auction and sea-sickness? One is the sale of effects; the other effects of a sail.

For the American Agriculturist.

WORKING AND THINKING.

BY H. C. REYNOLDS.

It is a well established fact that when the powers of the corporeal organization are expended, food, rest and sleep are requisite to impart the necessary energy for labor or thought; and it is also a fact, capable of clear demonstration, that the vitality thus imparted, or generated—so to speak—may be as rapidly consumed by *mental* as by physical effort and labor. An individual continually engaged in mental exercises will, almost certainly, have a massive brain developed, while one confined chiefly to physical labors will have a more powerful physical structure. The blacksmith has a large and muscular arm; the carrier, or constant walker, sinewy and powerful legs; the student a large brain.

Far too little attention is given to the harmonious and proper development of our physical and mental organizations, or the laborer would be able to think more, and the thinker to labor more. The man of incessant physical toil, as a general rule, has little or no taste for mental exercises, and thinking, for him, is a far more onerous duty than ditching or digging; while the philosopher will grapple with the most abstruse and intricate metaphysical disquisitions for sixteen of the twenty-four hours in each day, and yet not be able to saw or chop off a log, without almost utter exhaustion.

Through whatever channel vitality is most expended, *there* will be the greatest tendency to development—even to undue proportions. Hence the man who labors *only*, without thought, must necessarily remain a laborer, because his capacity of intellect has been neglected until the avenues to it are almost closed. So little of nutriment is directed in that channel, that a sum in the rule of three would not only cause the exudation of a globular cataract from his cranium, but almost entirely exhaust his energies for the whole day.

The laborer, the farmer especially, labors too many hours before allowing time for the relaxation and diversion that otherwise would be afforded by mental exercise; and reading or study, without proper cultivation, is no relaxation at all, but really becomes a dreaded task. "Book knowledge" is odious for lack of taste or development of intellect to relish or comprehend it. Reliance is placed only upon the strong arm, because the arm is more developed than the brain.

School children who take violent exercise, in running jumping, or otherwise, can not learn so fast as those of more quiet habits; but if the exercise is not *too* violent, it will not unduly detract from their mental forces, but give a healthful tone to both their intellectual and physical structure. Discrimination is more needed in the proper development of man as a thinking and laboring being, than is requisite in any other department of human affairs—not excepting the fattening of an ox or a hog. And when time can so be dispensed as to rightly diversify our pursuits and studies, and the worker and thinker be combined in one person, new and useful inventions will rapidly increase; the most approved mowers, reapers, sed-sowers, cultivators, plows, &c., be generally used; all the fertilizing resources of the farm will be brought into requisition, and when exhausted, resort be made to those from a foreign land, or even of an artificial nature; an enlightened system of drainage, where requisite, will be adopted without dubiousness as to whether it will "pay"; and increased competence and prosperity reign over the whole land—for *reason* will direct the *arm*, and not the arm direct the reason.

U. S. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the United States Agricultural Society will be held at Washington, D. C., on Wednesday, January 9, 1856.

Business of importance will come before the meeting. Reports from its officers will be submitted, and a new election be made, in which it is desirable that every State and Territory should be represented.

Lectures and interesting discussions are expected on subjects pertaining to the objects of the association, by distinguished scientific and practical agriculturists. The transactions of 1855, containing a full account of the late exhibition at Boston, will be distributed to such members as are present.

The various Agricultural Societies of the country are respectfully requested to send delegates to this meeting; and all gentlemen who are interested in the welfare of American Agriculture, who would promote a more cordial spirit of intercouse between the different sections of our land, and who would elevate this most important pursuit to a position of greater usefulness and honor, are also invited to be present on this occasion. MARSHALL P. WILDER, Pres't.

W. S. KING, Secretary.

☞ Editors are respectfully requested to notice the above in their journals.

WINTERING SHEEP.—The productive value of a sheep in spring, depends much on the care given it in winter. If it is exposed to the storm and half starved—if it "still lives"—the fleece will be inferior, and the whole summer be required to regain the condition to which it had attained the fall before. Sheep should be kept in good condition at all seasons of the year. They should have the food and shelter necessary to their thrift and comfort—and then they will prove profitable to their owners. It is a mistaken idea of economy and humanity, which treats these considerations with neglect. Let it not be forgotten that the storms of fall and early winter are often very trying to all exposed to them—often laying the foundation for serious losses to the wool grower.

In many places, the present will be a season of scanty fodder. To make the most of it, we must protect our domestic animals from the cold—we must study their wants, and the most economical means of supplying them. Cut grain, fruit, and roots, may be profitably employed. Good water, and a supply of salt should not be forgotten. The weak should be separated from the strong and given the best care, and it has ever been found that small flocks for a single enclosure succeed the best, whether wool or mutton is the object.—Wool Grower.

WHY IS A THOROUGH BRED BETTER THAN A COMMON BREED?

We have received a few queries from one who subscribes himself a "Beginner," and who wishes to know why a thorough bred animal, such as a thorough bred Durham, a thorough bred Hereford, or Jersey, or Devon, is any better than common cattle. If, says he, I have a common bred, say native cow, if you please, equally as large and equally as fat as a thorough bred Durham cow, why is she not as good, and why should she not command as much money in the market as the thorough bred Durham, or Devon? If you wish to obtain merely the beef, hide and tallow, to be sold in the shambles, perhaps the common bred cow may be worth as much as the other. Or if you want milk, or work, you may perhaps find some of the common bred valuable as the thorough bred; but here lies the difference—if you wish to breed from them, you are not sure of getting the like from the common bred, while you may be very certain of getting the like from the thorough bred. The thorough bred, of any breed, have had their peculiar characteristics fixed by a long and careful and thorough course of breeding, it may be for centuries, so that they are pretty sure to produce a progeny possessing the characteristics of their parents. Not so with the common bred. If you have one of them, for instance, that is very good for milk, there is no certainty that her progeny will be good for milk. If you have one possessing a desirable color or form, you are not sure that its progeny will possess either; while with a thorough bred you are. Take a Hereford, for instance, with his solid, compact, mahogany colored body, and white face, and you may predict, with much certainty, that all their calves will possess the same distinctive characteristics; so of Durhams, so of Devons, so of Jerseys.

Hence, a thorough bred is more valuable than the common, not for its amount of beef, or bones, or hide, or tallow, but for *the inherent capacity they have for producing their like to a great degree of certainty.*

But can not our common breeds be brought to this capacity? Yes, if you have a genius for conducting the business of breeding according to some model, or characteristic, and could live a hundred years, or could transmit your genius to some one that would continue the experiment to that period of time, you could; but since we have so many good breeds, that are thorough bred already to our hands, it would be wiser to adopt, them, than to commence experimenting for a new breed. There will be scope enough to exercise your talents in breeding, in keeping up the excellencies and characteristics of the breeds we have. They, being artificial, innovations upon nature, would certainly deteriorate and go back again in time, if great care was not taken to keep them up.—Maine Farmer.

PLANT TREES.

The following extract from a report on orchard culture by a committee of the Oneida County (N. Y.) Agricultural Society, should be read by all. The remarks are as true of every town in the country as of Oneida county, N. Y.:

It is to be wondered even, that the landowners of Oneida are not more zealous in planting orchards. Nature has given them a soil and a climate most propitious for the raising of superior apples; inviting markets are near at hand, or are easily reached; ample inducements are held out in the direction of profit, of pleasantness, and of sentiment; yet many are still slow to enter into the full possession of their peculiar advantages as owners of Oneida soil. Who plants an apple tree in the soil of Oneida, makes a permanent investment, that may be expected to increase from year to year, until its original value is hundred-folded. Who plants an apple tree, makes a prudent provision against life's rainy days, against loss of health, misfortune in business, old age. Who plants a tree, extracts something of bitterness from the original curse. It was a part of Adam's punishment to be expelled from the society of cultivated trees; to surround one's self with them, is to take some steps towards regaining the Paradise that was lost to man by his first transgression. The planted fruit tree will be a faithful minister to its owner's profit, improvement, health, and happiness. It will stand sentinel over his dwelling through winters of adversity, when summer friends have fled. While its master is sleeping, the tree will be growing. While he is traveling, the tree will stay at home and keep growing. It will be industrious for him through all seasons, converting air, and earth, and water into shadow for his footsteps, perfume for his parlor, food for his table, fuel for his hearth, timber for his use. It will serve him contentedly through life, and minister to his wants when its life is ended. A tree has moral and social uses. It is an orthodox, wholesome preacher. It will discourse daily homilies on faith, hope, patience, and good will to men, with a gentle eloquence that steals into the heart, making it more roomy and open, and filling all its chamber with sunshine. A tree sets an example of self-denying benevolence. It embroiders its foliage, and ripens its fruit by tedious processes; then gives them all away, dropping its last leaf to keep warm the tender plant that has taken root in its shade. The poet Virgil discovers a close relation between generous character and generous fruit trees; his native land he celebrates as a "mighty parent of fruit, mighty parent of heroes." Children should have a double share of native depravity not to be made better by the kindly influences that distill about them when they are brought up in the companionship of grand and chivalrous trees. Would a man rear a monument to his memory more to be coveted than one of costliest marble, let him plant trees; they will sing his praise in measures sweeter than a poet's, hen no envious lips are there to detract.

Every Family Should Have an Agricultural Paper—It is worth more than it costs simply for educational purposes. Parents have hardly a right to deprive their families of its advantages in these times. Children will learn more, as they go to and from school, to drive the cows to pasture, or pick berries by the way, if their observation is quickened, by what they hear their parents read or talk over from the agricultural papers; and when they form habits of reading for themselves, such reading is both safe and useful. Reader, if your neighbor has no agricultural paper, persuade him to take one; even if he is poor, he can better afford to take one than to do without it; for if he takes one, his children will be likely to be better off—to make a good home for themselves, and it may be for him in old age. Not all will have farms; but all will need to know something of the garden and orchards at least; and we advise no person, who feels that he may sometime be dependent upon his children, to bring them up without the means of instruction in rural economy. It should be regarded as essential in the education of any child, male or female.—American Cotton Planter.

WILLOWS A CROP WORTH LOOKING AFTER.

We will not venture to even guess at the number of willow baskets now used in this country. We daily pass through one street of this city, where there are apparently some thousands of them hourly coming in from a great number of large and small manufactories, located in various parts of this and the adjoining cities, and in many villages and country towns. From these wholesale stores they are sent out to dealers all over the country, north, east, south and west. That *millions* of willow baskets are manufactured every year will be readily believed when it is remembered that almost every family has one of some kind or size, ranging from the large clothes or bread basket, to the smallest work basket, or childs toy basket, while in a multitude of families, such baskets count by the half-dozen or dozen. Besides willow baskets, we might enumerate willow cradles, children's waggons, &c.

The most striking fact connected with this subject, is that for manufacturing a very large proportion of all these baskets, the willows are brought from beyond the Atlantic Ocean, while we have in this country an unlimited amount of soil equaly well adapted with any in the world to their production, and which can be bought or rented at a lower price per acre, than any where else. During the past twelve months, we have probably received from foreign countries, sixty to seventy thousand tuns of willows for which we have sent abroad six to seven millions of dollars. And the consumption is rapidly increasing. We think we have good reason for saying that these willows may all be raised here for a much less price than we pay for them, and still yield a very large profit to the growers, besides furnishing remunerative employment to fifteen or twenty thousand persons.

One great cause of the continued confinement of this business to the old world, has been the amount of labor required to *peel* the willows and prepare them for the market, which could be done more advantagously abroad, owing to the relative lower price of labor. This has now been obviated, however, by the recent invention of a machine which accomplishes this part of the work cheaply and with great rapidity. This machine will be referred to farther on. But even without any machine, willow raising could be made immensely profitable at the prices which have always prevailed for the imported article.

Before alluding further to the profitableness of willow culture, we will give some practical directions as to soil, preparation &c., chiefly furnished by Mr. Geo. J. Colby, of Jonesville, vt., who from his experience in the matter is probably the best authority in this country.

Variety.—There are several kinds of willows which have been recommended. Mr. Colby, informs us that he has experimented upon every variety he could hear of during the past four years, and finds none worth cultivating but the one known as the Osier Willow or *Salix viminalis*. All the others send out too many side shoots. In other soils and localities some of these may succeed better than with Mr. C., and he generously offers to furnish any who may wish with a quantity of cuttings for experiments. He only offers for sale, and warrants his machine to peel the *Salix viminalis*. Of these he proposes to furnish cuttings delivered at the Jonesville Depot for $5 per thousand if less than ten thousand are taken, and for $3 per thousand if ten thousand or more are taken, and for $2.06 per thousand where fifty thousand or more are taken. Cuttings can be obtained at the same prices of Erastus Parker, Waterbury, Vt. About fifteen thousand are required for planting an acre. At the above rates the cuttings for one acre would be only $45, and for 3½ acres at the rate of $31 per acre. To this add transportation and we have the cost of the seed.

Locality.—They have been grown well as far south as Washington D. C., and we see no reason why they may not be equally well grown still further south. Our native willows are not limited to any part of the country. The next seven paragraphs are from Mr. Colby's Circular.

Soil and Situation.—The Osier Willow, (*salix viminalis*,) can be profitably cultivated in a great variety of soils, but there are two things necessary to ensure its thrifty growth in any soil, viz.: richness and moisture—but not an excess of moisture. Wet clay, or swampy land should be thoroughly drained before it is fit for an Osier plantation. A deep, rich, sandy loam is the best soil—such as the low meadows along our rivers and creeks, that are overflowed once or twice a year—and if not very rich, a liberal dressing of manure will be of great advantage. Manure from the barn-yard is best, and it should be well plowed in.

Preparation of the Land.—Too much pains can not be taken in preparing the land, as it has to be prepared but once only, and it pays

much better to do it thoroughly, than to leave it half done, as in most cases it is. The best time to prepare the ground is in the fall, when the other work of the farm is not pressing, and there is *time* to do it *well*. But, whenever it is done, the land should be plowed deep and well, and if the subsoil is hard, the use of a subsoil plow is very beneficial. It should then be harrowed and brushed until the surface is even and thoroughly pulverized.

Time of Planting.—This may be done either in the fall or spring as most convenient. If the cuttings are to be procured from a distance, it is better to procure them in the winter, as they are sent better in cold weather, and set them as early in the spring as the ground can be prepared; or the best way is to have the ground ready in the fall, and set them as soon as the frost is out in the spring, while the ground is soft. If they can not be set until late, they should be kept in a cellar, or some cool place, to keep them from growing. I have set them as late as June, and had them do well; but they ought to be set as early as the first of May.

Planting, or Setting.—This is a very simple operation, and not very laborious when the ground is mellow. But perhaps some will not know what it is that is set, or planted. It is not a *seed*, nor a *root*, but a *cutting*, which is simply a piece of a Willow rod, ten or twelve inches long. When the land and cuttings are ready to plant, mark out the land in rows, about three feet apart—and be careful to make the rows straight; as it is with this, as in preparing the land, it can be done but once, and will remain a life-time; and it will be much easier cultivating them, and look much better to have them straight, than to have them crooking about, and running into each other—as though those who set them were not brought up under the influence of the "Maine Law." But, supposing that you have your land marked off *straight*, you put a leather glove or mitten on your right hand, and take a basket or pail of cuttings in your left; stick them about *one* foot apart in the rows, and be sure you stick the right end down, leaving but one or two buds above ground. They may be set slanting, say at an angle of forty five degrees, if it is any easier than to set them perpendicular. It will require about 15,000 cuttings to set an acre.

Cultivation.—They should be cultivated *well* the first year. A small harrow or cultivator should be run through them often enough so that with the help of the hoe the ground would be kept loose and free from weeds; and it would be well to run the cultivator a few times through them the second year—until they would be damaged by breaking down the tops. After the second year they will generally shade the ground, so that they require no cultivation.

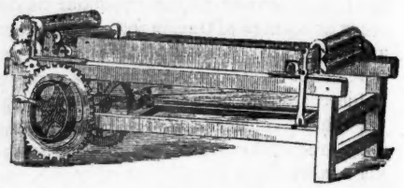
Cutting, Binding, &c.—The willows can be cut any time after the leaves fall, before the buds begin to swell in the spring. They can be cut with a knife, or with a hooked instrument made for the purpose. They should be cut within an inch or two of the old stock every year. Bind them into small bundles, and be careful to get the lower ends even. As soon as it begins to be warm in the spring, set them in water sufficiently to touch the lower ends of all, and there let them stand until they will peel, which will be in May and June, in this latitude. If you have a brook running through your land, you can easily fix a place to set them by building a dam so as to flow a level piece, and then put up poles once in a few feet, for them to lean against, so that the sun may shine on them, and the air circulate freely through them. Or, in case there is not a brook convenient, a small piece of ground, in some low place can be levelled, and after making it as tight as possible, bring a stream of water into it with spouts or pipes. It costs about five dollars per ton to cut and bind them.

Peeling and Preparing for Market.—In peeling willows by hand, as they always *have* been peeled, it was necessary to handle them all over twice, one at a time, which made it very slow business, requiring the labor of a man and a boy to peel one hundred pounds in a day; but as there is no longer a necessity of peeling them in that way, it would be needless to describe the operation. With the machine below shown, the peeling is very easily and quickly done; the operator takes a small bundle of the willows and feeds them into the machine as he would a bundle of grain into a thrashing machihe, and they are passed through and come out peeled at the rate of from one to two tuns per day. There should be a trough or vat of water so placed that the rods will fall into it as they come out of the machine, and as often as the trough is full, rinse them in the water, and spread them out to dry. When they are sufficiently dry, which will be in a few hours after they are peeled, they may be tied in bundles, and are ready for market. In binding them, put some of the thick ends both ways so that the bundles will be as large at one end as at the other, and to get them tight use a strap with a buckle at one end, and draw them together as tight as possible, then tie with strong twine, three or four bands to a bundle. They are very slippery things, and if not well bound, are liable to work loose and thus be scattered and lost. The object of having them fall into water as they come out of the machine is to remove the slime, thus preventing them from turning color, as it is very desirable to have them white.

Amount Produced per Acre.—This of course varies, as with every other crop. The first year's crop will not amount to much, unless wanted for cuttings, to increase the plantation. The second year they will produce about half a crop, and the third, and every year thereafter, a whole crop, which will vary, according to the land and cultivation, from two to five or six tuns an acre—but these highest figures can only be obtained in the very choicest situations. Two or three tuns may be considered as a fair average yield in such situations and with such cultivation as is herein described.

Marketing.—New-York City is now the chief market for willows, where the price per tun varies from $100 to $150, and even higher than this for choice qualities. This is 5c. to 8c. per pound at wholesale. The business will bear increasing to an almost unlimited degree, since they can be cultivated at one-fourth to one-half the present market price, and a reduction of this amount would very greatly enlarge the demand. From 2 to 5 tuns can be raised on an acre, with little more trouble to cultivate them than a crop of corn or potatoes. Once planting is sufficient for a hundred years.

We present here a cut of the machine invented by Mr. Colby, for peeling them, one of which Mr. C. proposes to set up in working order in our office, to gratify the curiosity of any one who may wish to see it in operation. We follow the cut with Mr. C.'s own description of the machine.



This machine consists of a frame eight feet long, three feet wide, and two and a half feet high. On one end of the frame are hung two rollers, seven inches in diameter, one made of India rubber, and the other of wood or iron, so hung that they will roll together, one over the other, and having also an endwise or vibrating motion of an inch on each one, given by the lever with a fulcrum in the center between the rollers, as shown in the figure. On the other end of the frame are two sets of rollers, one set seven and the other set three inches in diameter—all made of India rubber. The small ones roll together with the same speed as the large rollers on the front end of the machine, and the other large ones have about eight times the velocity. When the machine is in motion, the operator takes a bundle of willows, and, with the help of a table—which is not shown in the figure—feeds them into the front rollers, the same as straw is fed into a threshing machine, when the vibratory motion loosens the bark and tears it to pieces. They are then carried along on a belt to the small rollers, and the large end passes through them, when the large rollers, which run much faster, seize them and strip them through, and throw them out *clean*, while the small ones hold the loose bark, which then rolls through and drops at the end of the machine in a pile by itself.

Sweet Potatoes.—Sweet potatoes are excellent in making bread, and makes a pie nearly or quite as good as the squash. It has a peculiar, agreeable flavor, and is called easy of digestion, is wholesome and nutritious.

The recipe for making pies of the sweet potato is as follows: Boil soft, peel and mash them. To every quarter of a pound, put one quart of milk, three tablespoonfuls of butter, four beaten eggs, together with sugar and spices to the taste.

The sweet potato is an excellent crop for milk cows, and they are very fond of them.

SHRUBBERY PLANTING.

The shrubbery may be defined to be the link which connects the mansion and the lawn to the flower garden, or to the other parts of a residence, and is most generally planted either for shelter or shade, although often as a screen to hide disagreeable objects, for which the plants which compose it are better suited than for forest or other trees. The shrubbery is often a matter of utility as well as of ornament, in which case it gives the highest satisfaction when formed for the purpose of shutting out the offices or the kitchen garden from the view of the house; for sheltering the latter or the garden, or for connecting the house with the garden and the orchard, the shrubbery becomes useful and interesting.

Sometimes a shrubbery is formed merely for the purpose of growing rare shrubs, and for obtaining agreeable walks; in this case it is necessary to be at more pains, and to display a greater degree of taste in the laying of it out than in the formation of the useful shrubbery; in the former case, a tasteful arrangement of plants is a matter of less importance than the choice and disposition of kinds that will soonest afford shelter, and ultimately become thick screens.

In planting shrubberies for screens, to hide disagreeable objects, evergreens should form the principal mass, as affording a permanent blind, and giving a cheerful appearance even in winter. A few deciduous shrubs of the most showy sorts may, however, be with propriety added, which will give relief to the more sombre apperance of the evergreens, particularly while the former are in flower; but, from their nature of annually shedding their leaves, and consequently becoming thin in winter, they are not so well calculated for a permanent blind.

In the disposal of shrubs, the tallest should be planted farthest from the walk or front side, and the lower in stature in front, but if an immediate effect be desired, it is better to elevate the ground than to plant trees of too great an age; it is also a matter of importance that they may be planted thickly, as it is an easy task to thin them out when required. Little taste has generally been displayed in the formation of shrubberies as to the production of picturesque beauty; they are planted too generally in the form of sloping banks, without the least natural beauty whatever, although in this way they may answer the purpose of blinding out disagreeable objects of little merit, when seen even from their best side.

Great attention should be paid, in their planting, to give them a somewhat *natural appearance*, and not that of a surface as regular as if they were clipped with the garden shears. Straight lines should also be avoided as much as possible, and the margin of the shrubbery should be *broken* with deep indentures or sinuosities, and these should be neatly turfed over and kept mown. The walks which lead through this department should not be to any great distance in a straight line, if it can be avoided, neither should they be too much twisted. There is something in a fine gentle sweep or curve so pleasing in a road or walk, that few are insensible of its beauty. The breadth of the walks should be regulated according to the length and scale of the place, as too narrow walks for principal ones have never a good effect; they should scarcely, under any circumstances, be less than five feet wide, and, unless for terrace walks of great length, should not be more than eight; if the greater breadth, they assume the appearance of a carriage-drive, and if narrower, they dwindle in appearance to a mere footpath.

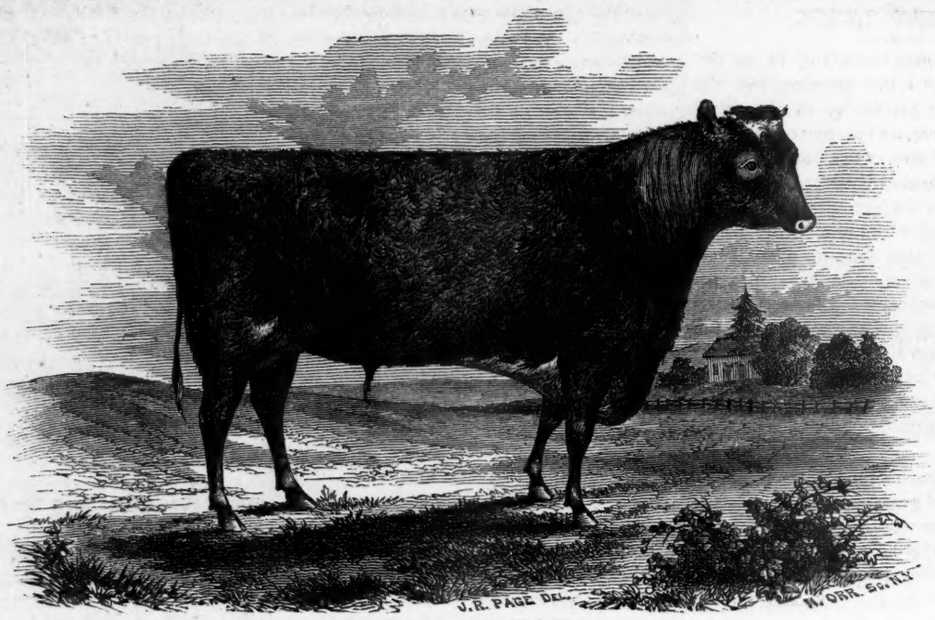
By *combining* the more distant parts of the grounds with the lawn and house by means of shrubberies, which may be done, if executed with judgment. Space does not always give the idea of grandeur, for a limited sphere is often better adapted to the display of ornament and beauty. By good management a small strip of ground may be varied, by taking advantage of the ground (if any): or, if it be a level and monotonous spot, art can readily step forward and assist by raising banks, sinking the walks, and planting shrubs in thick masses, chiefly evergreen species, and conducting the walks in the most circuitous manner, so as not to intersect each other but as little as possible; however, care must be taken to give sufficient breadth of walk, and also a margin of grass on the sides, of unequal breadths, which will naturally assist in adding to the picturesque appearance of the whole. This may also be aided by forming the banks to be planted of unequal hights, which banks, in small places, need not occupy much surface at their base, so as to admit of as great a breadth of grass margin between them and the walks as possible; in some parts narrow, where it is deemed necessary, either for variety or for the more completely concealing objects which should not be seen; at others broad, and disappearing, as it were, in natural glades, in the distance. This margin of grass, where of sufficient breadth, should be planted with the finer species of ornamental trees and flowering shrubs, singly or in groups of three or five together, which would not be seen to sufficient advantage if planted generally among the shrubs.

Some attention to botanical arrangement might be paid in the distribution of the shrubs and ornamental trees, but this must not be carried to the extent likely to infringe upon picturesque beauty; however, such families as Pinus, Juniperus, Buxus, Laurus, etc., may be grouped with good effect, and, if judiciously done, will give a bolder effect to the whole than if they were planted promiscuously. Fine specimees of larger growing kinds should be so placed as to give effect and relief to the thicker masses of more humble growth. In the background may be placed a few fruit-bearing trees, which will display their beauties in spring with their blossoms, and in autumn with their fruit; in such situations also should be planted the stronger growing species of *Cratægus*, *Prunus*, etc.

On leaving the mansion, the walks should be conducted through the lawn in a graceful and natural manner to the shrubbery, and should be as much hidden from the principal windows as possible; they should then be continued through the shrubbery, the most circuitous walks leading to interesting objects, so as to relieve the mind and remove the idea that they lead to nothing. Fine specimens of trees, ruins, either natural or artificial water, distant views of villages, churches, woods, cottages, or the like, will always be pleasing. Shorter walks should also be contrived on which to return (as most objects lose their effect when seen over and over), as well as for a more convenient mode of reaching the more distant parts of the grounds. Neat resting-places should be placed in different parts, choosing the situation of some in shaded groves, others upon elevated spots commanding the finest views of the grounds or surrounding country. Much taste may be displayed in the formation of such seats, from the polished temple of Flora, Venus, etc., to the rude roots of trees and misshapen fragments of rocks or rude stone. Arbors of living trees of flexible habits, such as Mountain Ash, Willow, etc., may be planted and formed in bowers, and covered over with creeping plants, such as Clematis, Ivy, Honeysuckle, etc. Moss houses of various construction, root-houses, Russian, Swedish, Lapland, Scotch, and Swiss cottages should be disposed of in situations peculiarly adapted for them. Sometimes situations are to be found adapted for the one or the other; in such cases the house should be chosen to suit the situation, and this will always be found to have the happiest effect. Where the situation has to be formed for either, much judgment and taste are reqired in the arrangement; this is not sufficiently attended to. Thus a Russian cottage, composed of oak timber-trees, and the adjacent ground planted with laurel and other polished shrubs, natives of southern latitudes, and close-shaven grass lawns, is as prepposterous as the chaste Grecian temple in a rocky dingle. The ground should be chosen or arranged so as to persuade the observer that he is really in Russia, and the house should be composed of the same timber-trees used in the formation of cottages in that country, and be of the same form and size. The internal construction and furniture should also come as near to reality as possible. Hermitages and caves are also interesting, when proper situations are chosen; in these should be kept a small collection of books calculated for private study, and the furniture of this sequestered retreat should be exactly of that simple and useful nature as would be suitable to a recluse.—Floricultural Cabinet.

"HICCUP."—A writer in a European Medical Journal says that this troublesome affection may be cured by taking small doses of chloroform. The editor of the New-Jersey Medical Reporter gives a much more simple remedy than this:

He says for *ordinary* cases of this trouble, elevating the arms over the head, reaching as high as possible with both arms, until a few spasms have been omitted, will seldom fail of curing it.



The thoroughbred Short Horn Bull

HIGHFLYER (578).—A. H. B., vol. ii.

Red. Bred by Samuel Thorne, Esq. The property of Samuel T. Taber & D. B. Haight, Dover Plains, Dutchess Co., N. Y. Calved Dec. 14, 1854.

Got by imported Duke of Glo'ster (11382), out of imported Diana Gwynne, by Duke of Lancaster (10929); Dolly Varden by Ribblesdale (7422); Dorothy Gwynne by Conservative (3472); —— Cripple by Marmion (406); —— Daphne by Merlin (430); Nell Gwynne by Layton (366); Nell Gwynne by Phenomenon (491); Princess by Favorite (252); —— by Favorite (252); —— by Hubback (319); —— by Snowden's bull (612); —— by Waistell's bull (669); —— by Masterman's bull (422); —— by the Studley bull (626).

SUFFOLK HOGS.

This breed of hogs are coming into general favor, notwithstanding some are very much opposed to them. The greatest objection that we have heard from their opponents is that they are not of sufficient size. Like other breeds of domestic animals, they have their variations of characteristics, and while some families of Suffolks, and indeed some pigs in the same litters, are comparatively small and delicate, others are large, more robust, and will afford, by having the required amount of food, as much pork when slaughtered, as the general run of hogs.

As an instance of this latter class, we would refer those in the immediate neighborhood of our office, to those kept by our neighbor, Mr. Hiram Reed, at his stables, on Winthrop-street, near the Cushnoe House. Here you will find a full blood Suffolk boar, of ample size and fair proportions. Mr. Reed informs us that pigs of his get have been slaughtered this season which weighed 500 pounds. Probably they were half bloods, for nothing improves the progeny of the lank, lathy, *wind-splitting* breed better than crossing them with the Suffolks.

The present breed of Suffolks are the old English Suffolk hog, which, according to Loudon, was a "small, delicate, white pig, which had for many years great reputation," and at the time of his writing, (1852,) he says "there is not only a strong prejudice in their favor, in their own country, but they have many advocates out of it. He also says that they are shorter and more *pug-formed* than the Suffolks, and by their dish face and pendent belly, it may be supposed that the variety proceeded originally from the white Chinese."

The English breeders, by skillful and judicious crossings, have made and fixed the characteristic features of the present breed, which are longer in the body and broader in the back than the old breed, thereby working out their defects and working in the good points of others. This breed are very easily kept. In summer they will live and do well almost entirely on grass. And when confined and fed regularly, they lay on fat very easily, and this fat is placed in the most valuable parts and is very fine indeed. Our neighbors, I. & J. Glidden, of Winthrop, who have followed the butchering business for more than twenty-five years, and have had much experience with hogs, inform us that they have never found a breed that would fatten so easily, or whose carcase would sell so readily as the Suffolk.

They also state that the meat from the Suffolks will readily sell for two cents more the pound than any other pork which they have carried to market.

In regard to keeping, some aver that they have found them to be large eaters, and poor growers or producers. That there may be some such, we do not deny, but they are the exceptions to the rule. On the other hand, abundance of testimony may be produced that they are kept easier and produce more from their keeping than any of the other breeds.

In the transactions of the New-Hampshire Agricultural Society for 1852, we find statements of Mr. James M. Whiton, of Holderness, in that State, made to the committee on swine. Mr. Whiton states that "previous to adopting the breed for his raising, he had made trial of the Mackie, and also the common kind;" but found them not very profitable. The following are his figures in an estimate of keeping eighteen Suffolks from June 1st to October 7th—the articles consumed being productions of his farm. Slops from the kitchen (not valued.)

11 bushels of corn at 83 cents		$9 13
9 "	of oats, at 37½ cents	3 37
36 "	of barley, at 75 cents	27 00
40 "	of refuse potatoes, at 25 cts.	10 00
2 loads of imperfect pumpkins		2 00
Weeds and green materials thrown in, (not valued.)		
		$51 50

CONTRA.

By a large lot of manure, from thirty to forty loads, as estimated, and five pigs, altogether not less than	$45 00
Making actual cost of the 18 (besides labor,)	$6 50

Hence he infers "it is safe to estimate that the cost of summering a store hog of the Suffolk breed, exceeds the value of the manure very little if any," and he also adds: "taking into account beyond this, the value of the pigs, and it will be seen that it is the only breed we have yet had, the raising of which affords the farmer any visible profit." What little experience we have had agrees with Mr. Whiton's conclusion. There is another breed equally profitable, with the Suffolk, and that is the Essex breed. This breed is, however, of a jet black color, and is therefore not in so much repute with the people as the white Suffolk.—Me. Farmer.

TO DRESS POULTRY.—When the weather is very cold, cut out and make each fowl a jacket and trowsers. Put them on and your poultry will be dressed.

PREPAIRING PAINTS.

The following recipes, prepared by a practical painter, have been sold for a dollar:

1. *To Boil Oil.*—In boiling oil, never fill your kettle more than two-thirds, or it may run over and take fire. Place your kettle on the coals, simmer your oil till it will scorch a feather, when it will be fit for use.

2. *To Grind Paint.*—Put your paint on a large flat stone, with a smooth face, wet your paint with oil, and grind until fine. Be careful to grind fine, or there will be a waste of the paint, and your work will not look well.

3. *A Mixture for Drying Paint.*—Take 8 ounces of sugar of lead, 8 ounces of red lead, 8 ounces of litharage, 4 ounces of umber; make fine, put them into a gallon of oil; simmer together one hour, then strain, pour in one pint of spirits of turpentine. Add one gill to one quart of paint to make it dry fast.

4. *Painting on Wood.*—In any kind of painting your paint must be of the proper consistency, your wood clean and smooth, and you must have a proper brush, or you can not do good work. It is as necessary that a painter have good tools as any other mechanic, to enable him to make a good job. I have seen houses and other things spoiled with poor brushes.

5. *To Paint a House White.*—Mix 4 quarts of linseed oil, with one keg of white lead thoroughly. Commence at the top and paint six or eight boards at one through, using great care to lay the paint even and smooth. In putting on three coats, make the second the thickest, adding a little Prussian blue to the last coat to make the white more clear. Be careful not to use too much blue; and you must putty all the holes and cracks before the last coat is applied.

6. *Cream Color.*—Add finely ground chrome yellow to white paint, (see No. 5,) a little at a time till the shade pleases you. You must add yellow every coat to have a good finish.

7. *Lead Color.*—Add finely ground lampblack to white paint, (No. 5,) till the color suits you.

8. *Blue Paint.*—Prepare a sufficient quantity of white paint, then add finely ground Prussian blue in oil. Add a little at a time, until the color is light or dark as you may want the shade.

9. *Black.*—In preparing black paint, grind lamp-black in oil; and as black dries slowly, you should add two ounces of litharage, to every pint of paint. Always use boiled oil for black, to give it a body.

10. *Verdigris Green.*—Wrap verdigris in cabbage or other large leaves, and place it on the hearth, over which scatter cold ashes, then cover with coals, let it roast one hour, remove, and when cold, grind in oil. This is not so apt to fade as other green, and is used for outside work.

11. *Common Green.*—This is composed of nearly equal quantities of Prussian blue and chrome yellow. It must be ground very fine in oil. The shade may be varied with white lead.

12. *Another Green.*—You may purchase patent green ready for grinding, which is beautiful if genuine; to be ground as other paint.

13. *Stone Color.*—Burn umber on an iron plate until it is of a reddish cast. No color looks better for a room if well put on.

14. *Stone Color of a beautiful Green Shade.*—Add to white paint, sufficient to make a light drab; then green enough to make a green shade.

15. *Orange Color.*—Combine white lead with chrome yellow in the proper proportion to make a bright straw color, then add red lead to tinge it to an orange.

16. *Straw Color.*—Number 15 makes a straw color by leaving out the red lead.

17. *Dark Stone Color.*—Add umber to light lead color, (see No. 7,) till the color suits.

18. *Blossom Color.*—To white paint add red or Venetian red, till the color please. Red lead is the best.

19. *Flesh Color.*—To white paint add chrome yellow enough to change its shade, then some red lead and a very small quantity of black, till the color suits.

20. *Best Copal Varnish.*—Reduce 2 lbs. of gum copal to fine powder and pour it into a copper kettle that will hold 3 or 4 gals., and melt it over a fire of charcoal. When the gum is dissolved, add one pint and a half of hot flaxseed oil, having removed the gum from off the fire, stirring smartly while adding the oil. When it is partly cool, add slowly 3 quarts of spirits of turpentine, still stirring. Care must be taken that the contents of the kettle are not too cool while adding the turpentine; if too hot it will take fire; if too cool it will not mix well. Strain while warm.

21. *Carriage Varnish.*—Manage your copal as directed in No. 20. Use 5 pints of hot oil that will scorch a feather, add 1 quart of turpentine, and proceed as in No. 20. This varnish will not crack.

22. *Gum Shellac Varnish.*—Put 2 pounds of shellac gum into 2 quarts of spirits of wine, and shake occasionally; and when it is dissolved it will be fit for use. This will not stand exposure; it will dry in a few minutes, and answers well for coffins.

23. *Varnish to render Paper Transparent.*—Heat 2 gills of spirits of turpentine in an earthen vessel; when hot add 2 oz. resin, and stir until dissolved. Varnish both sides of your paper with one coat, and when dry it will be clear enough to read through. Lay this paper on a picture and mark the outlines, then cut it out, paint through the hole. In this manner you may paint any figure you may desire.—Due West Telegraph.

STEWED CELERY.—The Horticulturist highly recommends stewed celery. Cut the blanched or white portion of the celery stalks in pieces about an inch in length, and put them in a saucepan over the fire, with milk and water, in equal proportions, barely sufficient to cover them; add a little salt, and let them stew gently, until perfectly tender. Then take out the celery, add a piece of butter to the liquid it was boiled in, thicken it slightly with flour, pour it over the celery and serve it up.

POTATO DIGGING MACHINE.

Mr. Hasson's patent potato digging machine was tried on Thursday, at one o'clock, on a field belonging to Mr. Renwick, farmer, Maryhill. There was a large assemblage of agricultural gentlemen, landed proprietors, and engineers. The machine is of a simple yet peculiar construction, and is not of large dimensions. It runs on four wheels, two small ones at the muzzle, and two about the size of cart wheels on each side of the body of the machine. A sock, which tapers from a point to a plate about a foot and a half in breadth, is made to enter the drill at a depth below the deepest potato roots. A series of grapes is made to revolve immediately above this sock, which effectually scatters the potatoes above the soil, and separates the roots from the shaws. The axle of the wheels on which the machine is supported is so constructed that the wheel with the grapes is worked by it, and can be stopped on turning, or on other necessary occasions. A box is placed in the center of the machine for containing the necessary implements for yoking, unyoking, and altering the machine. It was drawn on Thursday by two horses, and worked by two men; one of them drove the horses, while the other worked the machine. The weather was exceedingly fine, and the soil was in excellent condition for the experiment. A few minutes after one o'clock the horses were attached and the machine started. During the first round it was driven at great speed, but wrought beautifully. The roots were scattered clearly above the ground over a breadth of 2 yards. After two drills had been opened the horses were stopped for a few minutes, and the gentlemen who were on the ground having assembled around the machine, Mr. Hanson, the inventor, who was present, proceeded to explain the mode of operation. He said that he had a shaft which could be attached to it for the purpose of supporting a plate of zinc against which the potatoes would be thrown, so that they would fall in a regular line, and not be too much scattered. We afterwards heard Mr. Hanson explain that the machine could lift turnips at a distance of 6, 9, 12, or 18 inches by the attachment of hoes instead of grapes. He also stated in answer to a question put to him, that it could easily be made to throw the potatoes to both sides, so that it might be made to lift a field without requiring to turn round a number of drills. Not a single root was cut or injured in the slightest degree, and none were left in the ground. The method of lifting potatoes with the grape can not at all be compared with it, and it works with about double the speed of the common plow, while it destroys none of the crop.—Scottish Daily News.

The best cough mixture that has been made consists of a pair of thick boots, mixed with lots of air and plenty of exercise. People who hug the stove and grow lean will please take notice.

A good word is an easy obligation; but not to speak ill, requires only our silence, which costs us nothing.

THOUGHTS FROM MY GARDEN SEAT.

Morning-glories!—One, two, three, four, five varieties! pale blue, white, pink, dark purple, glowing crimson, and white flecked with blue and crimson—airy as the clouds, with a living, transparent brightness in their cups, as if they were woven of light and air. Other flowers have their days, some their weeks, of gradual development—of nature fullness—of slow decay; the mornig-glory is new every morning. It has only a few fresh hours, and then closes forever, and instead of a half-withered, slowly-decaying flower, lo! to-morrow, we have all new ones, sprung as by one magic touch from the womb of night. Ages ago, the Hebrew poet said of the fairest and only One, the source and essence of all beauty, His mercies are *new* every morning.

These morning-glories, in their unvalued commonness, and yet their strange, ethereal beauty, are a living emblem of that daily love which God shows us daily, when we wake from the seeming death of sleep to a new lease of life—a new present of all its adornments and comforts.

Our garden is a perfect jungle of petunias—that flower so encouraging to the souls of immature gardeners, so hopeful, so hardy, so full of vanity, so persistent in bloom that no exuberance can possibly exhaust it. We have taken from the ground a petunia that has been flaunting its blossoms all summer, cut it down for our winter window-garden, and seen it bloom there with new vigor all winter; and when spring came, go back into the ground and flower on all summer, without one pause suggestive of weariness. Ah! how few among our living friends are there that correspond to petunias.

Verbenas also are an encouraging growth, requiring only sunshine enough for untiring bloom. People with shaded borders should eschew them, for they will not blossom without a plenary fullness of sunlight. Too much sun and heat they scarce can have, and they lift their heads to it with an exultant glow; they are like rich, poetic, artistic natures, which revel in congenial warmth and culture, but become wilted, bloomles and stinted, in cold, shaded, ungenial situations. Many persons can no more be judged of, in such situation, than can the verbenas which some of our neighbors are fond of planting in shady borders under the drip of over-arching trees. "I see no beauty about the thing," they say; "it's a miserable, yellow, lank-growing vine, without form or comeliness." Yet, friend, give it sunshine, and you will see what it can do. Some of the most goregous and splendid natures may have, all their lives in this world, passed for miserable failures—simply because the sunshine of congeniality and opportunity never awakened what was in them to bloom; and there may in the future life be glorious blossoms on plants which seemed poor and stunted here.

But, oh, these weeds! What! only a week since garden beds and alleys were faithfully cleaned, and now behold!

Yet one word about these weeds. A friend said to us the other day, Does it not seem a piece of impertinence to seize on a piece of ground and vehemently uproot and destroy everything that nature inclines to place there and insist on the growth of something which apparently she cares very little about? Who does not see that mignonette, larkspurs and cypress vines are not nature's pets? She expresses herself with a far more hearty energy in burdock, pigweed and smartweed. These are her thrifty children; our so-called flowers are her step-sons, penuriously and grudgingly brought up. What makes one thing a weed and another a flower? We have seen growing, in trodden paths by the sand and dust of the wayside, weeds fairer than some greenhouse nurslings. The weed of one country is the cherished exotic of another. Our mullein flourishes in English gardens under the cognomen of the American velvet plant, and the wild heath of her moors is our greenhouse nursling.

We have thought sometimes that flowers, could they speak, would complain of this capricious standard of valuation. But the same thing runs through the living world. There is *one* Mrs. A. who is broad and fat, a coarse talker, a loud laugher, a heavy feeder, and there is *another* Mrs. A. who is just the same—but the world calls one of them a flower and the other a weed. One is the rich Mrs. A. and the other is the poor Mrs. A., and that makes all the difference. One is designated as *em bon point*—the other as broad and fat. One is insufferably vulgar—the other is "*so* peculiar and original;" in short, one is the garden plant and the other the roadside weed.

We confess to certain remorseful yearnings in favor of weeds, when we observe the persistent assiduity with which nature endeavors to give them a foothold in the world. How is a believer in universal toleration and freedom of development to reconcile it to his conscience to give pigweed and purslane no chance? Pigweed has his æsthetic merits; his leaf is elegant; in good soil he becometh soon a shapely shrub. Whoso will examine the pink leaves of a very young pigweed through a microscope, will find them frosted with a glittering incrustation of the most brilliant beauty. A few sparkles of dew lying cradled in those pink leaves have often stayed our hand in full process of weeding, and raised the query, Why should this be only a weed? About smartweed, now, the question is easily answered. He has no graces, no fine points; his leaves of a dingy hue with dull spots—his flower of a dirty pink—his odor coarse and rank; all declare him to be a weed by nature as well as position.

One of our own ideas of a garden is a certain wild *abandon* or freedom of growth, similar to what one sees in woods and hedges. Trim gardens, where every plant is propped and tied, and divided with exactest care, have their own beauty, but there is (so at least we hope) beauty also in dense masses of flowers which grow, and twine, and mingle together as if nature had planted them. Perforce, such has been the shape of our own gardening affairs; our beds are so full that the ground is scarcely to be seen; flowers lean over each other—vines intertwine, they mat, and run, and blossom in each other's embrace, as if they grew in a meadow. Here and there a hardy weed, if he have any prepossessing points, is allowed a niche, unless some amateur young gardener, zealous for etiquette, pulls him up in our absence. Humming-birds and sparrows come and go among our flowers, every day, as we explore the jungle, we find some new development.

This humming-bird—child of air and light! winged jewel! ethereal vision! what shall we say of him? Suppose some good, clucking hen, as she scratches in the garden, should deliver to her chicks an opinion of him. Standing on one leg, with her eye cocked upward, she watches his gyrations as he dips first at the coral tubes of the honeysuckle, and then dances through beds of petunias and verbenas. "See, my children," she says, "what absurd, irrational conduct! Did you ever see *me* do so? What if I should go flying about, pecking honeysuckle blossoms? Don't tell me that a bird can live on such fare as that! Don't it take corn-meal, potatoes and worms to keep us alive, and can a living be got by figuring round among roses and jessamins? What utter neglect of all solid tastes and pursuits! If I had the bringing up of that creature, she should learn to scratch and eat corn-meal as a rational bird should! Don't tell me about her fine colors—all trumpery! and graceful motions—pah! what are they good for? do they dig a single worm, or hatch a single chicken?"

Many of the judgments which human beings pass on each other are about as sensible as this. H. B. S.—Independent.

Destroying Bee Moths—A simple method purposed.—Mr. Garnsey, in the Genesee Farmer, recommends raising the hive an inch from the bench by placing small blocks under the corners; and carefully fill every crevice in the bench so as to deprive the moths of their usual hiding places. Next take a little board, say three by six inches, and one-half inch in thickness, and with a knife or some other sharp instrument cut it full of grooves upon one side; let the grooves extend through half the thickness of the board. Thus prepared, slide it under the hive, the grooved side down. This furnishes the moth with exactly such a place as they desire, and all you have to do is to remove your trap from one to three times a week, and destroy what you find in it. Small rods of elder, divided lengthwise and the pith removed, will answer, though not as well as a board with grooves in it. This remedy can be tested without the least expense. Let all those who may have occasion or opportunity give it a trial, and satisfy themselves whether it will pay to practice it or not.

To Cure Hams.—First ascertain what is the matter with them. Then apply the proper remedy, and if you do not succeed in curing them, it isn't your fault.

An auctioneer does as he is *bid*, a postmaster as he is *directed!*

REASONS FOR GROWING RUTA BAGAS.

Turnips, both of the Swedish and common varieties, are cultivated to a much greater extent in England than in this country. A few years ago we met with a statement to the effect that the annual value of the turnip crop of England, with a population about the same as that of the United States, was somewhere in the vicinity of 20 millions of pounds sterling, or nearly equal to $100,000,000. About the same time the turnip crop of the United States was so inconsiderable that it was not included or reported in the census returns of 1850 at all. According to the above estimate and the census returns of the agricultural products of the United States, the turnip crop of England not only exceeds that of the latter country immeasurably, but is fully equal to the largest crops which we raise. According to the census of 1850 the wheat crop of the U. S. was a little over 100,000,000 bushels, which at $1 per bushel would make the value of it just equal to the estimated value of the turnip crop of England. In 1850 the hay crop of the U. S. was 12,838,642 tuns; and this at eight dollars per tun would again be about of the same value as the turnip crop of England. From these data it is very obvious that this crop is much more highly valued in England than in this country, and much more extensively cultivated.

We were led to make the examination of the census returns, &c., the results of which have been just stated, in consequence of a visit lately made to an English farmer, who is somewhat celebrated for raising ruta baga and other root crops. He has raised crops of ruta bagas averaging over 600 bushels per acre, for several years, and notwithstanding that he makes as widely known as possible what he esteems as the advantages and recommendations of this crop, still very few of his neighbors have ever been induced to try to raise it. This seems truly surprising considering that the recommendations which he gives of this crop do not fall much if any below a dozen in number. Of these we remember the following as the most important.

1. Ruta bagas are a very profitable or remunerative crop, as an acre will generally produce from 500 to 800 bushels with an expenditure upon it, for seed, labor, &c., of from $20 to $30. Our informant stated that no crop he had ever raised had cost him as much as five cents a bushel, and that for feeding all kinds of stock he estimated them, by a comparison with the value of hay, &c., at average prices, to be worth as much as twenty-five cents per bushel. After deducting expenses of cultivation there would be, according to this estimate a *net* profit of *over* one hundred dollars per acre. Our informant assured us that repeated trials of this root as to its feeding qualities had made him confident, or as he phrased it, "perfectly certain and no mistake," that there is no crop that he raises, or that is usually raised in northern, middle, and western States, which is as profitable, per acre, as this crop.

2. Ruta bagas make a good and palatable food for oxen, sheep and hogs. Horses, also, often eat them.

3. Sheep are particularly fond of them and thrive on them.

4. They are especially good for ewes having lambs.

5. They can be kept easily until there is a good supply of grass in the spring. They do not become pithy or deteriorated in their feeding qualities as white turnips do.

6. They can be planted as a second crop, as the last week in June or first in July is about the right time of sowing, in the latitude of 42° and of two or three degrees on each side of that.

7. They do not "run the land" as they derive much of their nourishment from the atmosphere.

8. They can stand in the ground till all other fall work is disposed of and out of the way.

These and some minor advantages of this crop, having been set forth with some earnestness and enthusiasm, have deepened our conviction of the importance of it. To aid in fixing in other minds a similar conviction we have been induced to make a record of the principal recommendations which may be urged in favor of *increased* attention to this crop so generally and so unwisely neglected.— Obs., in Co. Gent.

HUSK BEDS.

As each autumn has returned, for several years past, we have advised all corn-growers to save their husks, for under-beds, believing they are the very best substance for this purpose that is or can be used. They should be the inner husks, clean and whole, and spread on some airy floor for a few days in order that they may become perfectly dry. Then they may be put into the ticks, and they will last for many years. We have some of the under-beds now in our house which have been in use more than twenty years; and with an annual ventilation and beating, by being emptied on a chamber floor, and with a little replenishing with new husks, they are now as good and lively as when new. The husks had better not be stripped up as some have done. This makes the substance finer and more liable to mat up. Let the husks be whole, and, drying in irregular shapes, they will retain those shapes and lie lively in the bed for a long time. There is a beard, or furziness, on each husk, that prevents any insects crawling through the beds; consequently they are entirely free from vermin, of which straw is apt to be full. They are, therefore, clean, sweet and healthy. A good husk bed is equal to the best mattress for summer use, and we have slept in feather beds in winter not half so soft as these.

The best time to save the husks is when in the act of husking the corn. By a little practice, the husker will soon learn how to strip off first the outside, coarse husks, and by another motion, seize the inner ones, (removing the silks at the same time,) and dropping them into a basket at his side. It will take a little longer to husk out a bushel of corn so, but the husks will most richly repay for the extra time. When this process has been omitted, it will not be a great job to visit the husk pile after the corn is removed, and by hand, pick out enough of the clean, inside husks to make a bed. We consider such a bed worth a five dollar bill. After being made, there is no need of ever going after straw with which to fill the under beds. The job once done, is done for life.

Drew's Rural Intelligencer.

TAKING CARE OF OUR BODIES.

COLD FEET

are the avenues to death of multitudes every year; it is a sign of imperfect circulation, of want of vigor of constitution. No one can be well, whose feet are habitually cold. When the blood is equally distributed to every part of the body, there is general good health. If there be less blood at any one point than is natural, there is coldness; and not only so, there must be more than is natural at some other part of the system, and *there* is fever, that is, unnatural heat or oppression. In the case of cold feet, the amount of blood wanting there, collects at some other part of the body which happens to be the weakest, to be the least able to throw up a barricade against the in-rushing enemy. Hence, when the lungs are weakest, the extra blood gathers there in the shape of a common cold, or spitting blood. Clergymen, other public speakers, and singers, by improper exposures often render the throat the weakest part; to such, cold feet gives hoarseness or a raw burning feeling, most felt at the little hollow at the bottom of the neck. To others, again, whose bowels are weak through over-eating, or drinking spirituous liquors, cold feet give various degrees of derangement, from common looseness up to diarrheas or dysentery; and so we might go through the whole body, but for the present, this is sufficient for illustration.

If you are well, let yourself alone. This is our motto. But to those whose feet are inclined to be cold we suggest: As soon as you get up in the morning put both feet at once in a basin of cold water, so as to come half way to the ankles; keep them in half a minute in winter, a minute or two in summer, rubbing them both vigorously, wipe dry, and hold to the fire, if convenient, in cold weather, until every part of the foot feels as dry as your hand, then put on your socks or stockings.

On going to bed at night, draw off your stockings and hold the feet to the fire for ten or fifteen minutes until perfectly dry, and get right into bed. This is a most pleasant operation, and fully repays for the trouble of it. No one can sleep well or refreshingly with cold feet. All Indians and hunters sleep with their feet to the fire. Never step from your bed with the naked feet on an uncarpeted floor. I have known it to be the exciting cause of months of illness.

Wear woollen, cotton or silk stockings, whichever keeps your feet most comfortable; do not let the experience of another be your guide, for different persons require different articles; what is good for a person whose feet are naturally damp, can not be good for

one whose feet are always dry. The donkey who had his bag of salt lightened by swimming a river, advised his companion who was loaded down with a sack of wool to do the same, and having no more sense than a man or woman, he plunged in, and in a moment the wool absorbed the water, increased the burden many fold, and bore him to the bottom.

SLEEP.

There is no fact more clearly established in the phosiology of man than this, that the brain expends its energies and itself during the hours of wakefulness, and that these are recuperated during sleep; if the recuperation does not equal the expenditure, the brain withers—this is insanity. Thus it is, that in early English history, persons who were condemned to death by being prevented from sleeping, always died raving maniacs; thus it is also, that those who are starved to death become insane; the brain is not nourished, and they can not sleep. The practical inferences are three:

1st. Those who think most, who do most brain work, require most sleep.

2d. That time "saved" from necessary sleep, is infallibly destructive to mind, body and estate.

3d. Give yourself, your children, your servants, all who are under you, the fullest amount of sleep they will take, by compelling them to go to bed at some regular, early hour, and to rise in the morning the moment they *awake of themselves;* and within a fortnight nature, with almost the regularity of the rising sun, will unloose the bonds of sleep, the moment enough repose has been secured for the wants of the system. This is the only safe and sufficient rule; and as to the question *how much sleep any one requires*, each must be a rule for himself; great Nature will never fail to write it out to the observer, under the regulations just given.—Hall's Journal of Health.

MOVING A SULLEN OX.

Noticing in the Stock Register for August, an extract headed "How to move a Sullen Ox," it brought forcibly to mind my little experience in that matter. When a boy, I frequently had the management of oxen, one of which was at times particularly sullen, or *baulky*, as we then termed it, and my ingenuity and wit were put to the test to devise some means to induce the stubborn animal to drive. At last I hit upon a plan, as the sequel will show, which effectually accomplished my purpose, and cured him in a measure of his hanging back propensity.

On a certain day in winter I was sent hauling wood with the oxen and sled. My road led over a bridge, and up a short but quite steep hill. Having arrived at the foot of the hill on the bridge, with a load, my team came to a dead stand still, and, as coaxing and whipping proved of no benefit, I bethought me of procuring the services of the "*old tom cat*," and applying him. I found tabby quietly sleeping on the hearth, and taking him in my arms, quickly retraced my steps to the oxen. My purpose was to apply the cat to the back of the ox and draw him backwards by the tail. I *did so;* but no sooner had the ox felt the claws of the feline monster enter his hide, than I found myself turning a back somerset thro' the air, off the bridge, with a propelling force I was powerless to withstand, accompanied by a tremendous squall from the poor puss. I brought up, or more properly *down*, some twelve feet below, in the bed of the stream, amid snow and water. Without waiting to contemplate my situation, I extricated myself and repaired to the scene of my exploit on the bridge. But lo! neither oxen, wood, nor cat were to be seen; all had mysteriously disappeared—but, as I subsequently found, the oxen brought up all safe in the wood-house, with the load of wood.

Ever after when the old ox took it upon him to sulk, I had only to show him the cat, and a pinch of the tail would make him straighten himself for very life. But I was extremely careful to keep out of reach of his heels.

Thus much for my experience in *moving a sullen ox.* W.

IRON AND LEAD PIPES FOR CARRYING WATER.

"A Farmer" wishes to lay down a pipe for conveying water to his house and barns, from a spring half a mile distant, and inquires whether iron pipe is not better and cheaper than that made from lead. He does not state the size of the pipe desired nor the make of the ground in which the pipe is to be laid. We will, however, make a statement or two, which may be of use to him and others.

Relative Cost.—The manufacturer's prices in New-York are about as follows:

For iron pipe, having an interior diameter or bore of ¼ inch, 10½ cents per foot; ¾ inch bore, 13 cents per foot; 1 inch bore, 17½ cts. per foot; 1¼ inch bore, 26 cents per foot; and for 1½ inch bore, 32 cents per foot. These pipes are made of wrought iron, in pieces 10 to 12 feet in length, and are supplied with coupling screws upon the end of each piece.

For lead pipes of all sizes the charge is now 8¾ cents per pound. Lead is one cent per pound higher than a few months since, owing to the great war demand. Lead pipe varies greatly in thickness, thus: a pipe ½ inch internal diameter is made of the following weights, ½ lb., ¾ lb., 1 lb., 1¼ lbs., 1½ lbs., 1¾ lbs. and 2 lbs. per foot. Lead pipe of 1 inch interior diameter is made weighing 1½ lbs., 2 lbs., 2½ lbs., 3 lbs., 4 lbs. and 4¾ lbs. per foot. The lighter weights are too thin for conveying water, being chiefly used for gas pipes in protected situations, within the walls or ceilings of buildings; for example, a lead pipe 1 inch in diameter, and weighing 2 pounds per foot, the thinnest practicable for conveying water, costs twice 8¾ cents, or 17½ cents per foot, which is just the cost of an iron pipe of the same diameter. A comparison of the above figures shows that lead pipe of any diameter may be selected of such thickness as to exactly equal the cost of iron pipe of the same size.

Relative value of Lead and Iron Pipe.—In all exposed situations, where pipe is liable to bruising iron is preferable, if there be no serious objection to its use. Iron rusts more readily than lead. This property does not injure it for conveying dry gases or *pure* water, but spring-water generally contains acids of some kind, which will more rapidly corrode or rust iron than lead. Most of the compounds formed in the corrosion of lead are washed, while iron-rust is generally insoluble, and there is danger of its filling or clogging iron pipes. The thick reddish "scum" observed upon the surface of many sluggish springs, is the rust of iron washed out from the soil. A soluble sub-oxide is first formed in the soil, which is changed to the insoluble red oxide when it comes to the air. The water conveyed in pipes is generally charged with air, so that this red oxide would be formed within them, especially if there is not a sufficient current of water to keep them clear.

One advantage possessed by iron over lead pipes is, that while the salts formed by the corrosion of lead are poisonous, the salts of iron are comparatively harmless, especially if the water has been for sometime exposed to air.

When carefully laid under ground, lead pipes are far more durable than iron; the former often lasting fifty or a hundred years, while the latter sometimes rust through in five or six years, or less. Old iron pipes are of little value, while old lead pipe will sell for one-half or two-thirds its first cost. Lead pipe is more conveniently laid down, as it is easily bent around large stones, and to fit any irregularities in the soil.

Everything considered, lead pipe is to be preferred to iron for conveying water or gases under ground, even when it is required to be of such size and thickness that the first cost will be considerably higher.

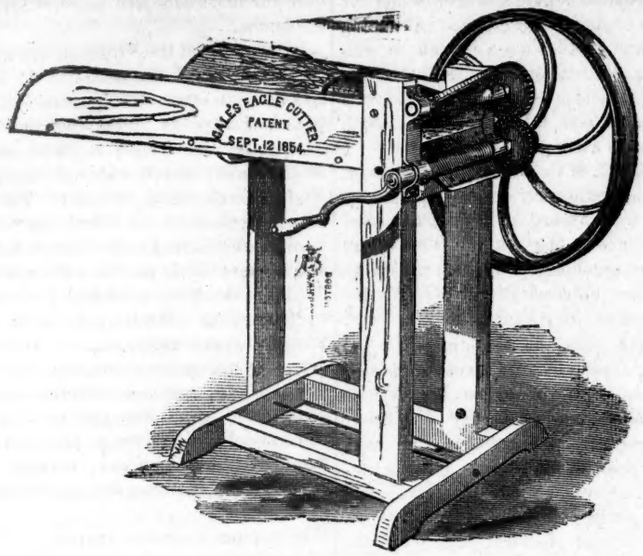
PAINTING FARMING IMPLEMENTS.—A great saving may be made by keeping implements constantly under shelter when not in use. But this is nearly impossible; and besides, many of them must of necessity be exposed during their employment, to many days of hot sun and occasional showers. It is therefore very important to keep them *well painted.* As a general average, they will last twice as long by the protection of a coat of paint, renewed as it is worn off.

A learned writer says of books: "They are masters who instruct us without rods or ferules, without words or anger, without bread or money. If you approach them they are not asleep; if you seek them they do not hide; if you blunder, they do not scold; if you are ignorant, they do not laugh at you."

A NEW FENCE.—The Lowell Advertiser says that the Rev. Mr. Gates recently married Mr. Joseph Post to Miss Martha Rails

Difficulty of achievement stupifies the sluggard, advises the prudent, terrifies the fearful, and animates the courageous.

Everything is ominous to the superstitious.



GALES' EAGLE CUTTER.

CUTTING STRAW, &C., FOR MANURE.

It hardly seems necessary at this late day, to offer a word in reference to the advantages of using a cutting machine for all kinds of coarse food, such as straw, cornstalks, hay, &c. To say nothing of the economy of cut feed, we should recommend cutting up the coarser materials designed merely as bedding for animals, and especially that thrown into the yards. Where this is done, the manure is much more readily rotted, while it can be spread upon the land with far greater facility and uniformity. This point is not generally considered sufficiently. Manure while rotting in the yard is constantly losing some part of its most valuable elements, and yet long straw can not be well incorporated with the soil until it is thoroughly decomposed. But by cutting it short it can be well distributed even without any previous rotting, and then the elements escaping during decomposition are retained by the soil for the use of growing plants.

But this by the way. We commenced this writing to answer the question so very often asked of us, viz: "What is the best cutting implement in market?" There are so many of these, that are good, and so many new modifications constantly coming out, that we seldom answer this question. At the present time the machine illustrated by the cut above seems to be one of the best, if not the best. Its main features are simplicity and durability, combined with rapidity of working. There are two knives somewhat spiral set opposite to each other on the shaft, bearing the balance-wheel and crank. Upon the shaft above this are two sets of spiral clamps, between which are placed pieces of raw-hide. As the handle is turned the edge of the raw-hide comes against the knife, the two draw in the straw or stalks and cut them off at any desired length. There is no complicated machinery to get out of repair. The chief wear is upon the raw-hide, but even this is so strongly clasped by the clamps as to wear very slowly; and where the edge wears down, a new portion can be raised up by turning a couple of screws. When the raw-hide wears out entirely, a new flat piece can be put in and adjusted in a few moments. The machine works very rapidly and perfectly, and is coming into general use, especially among the stable keepers in this city. We have not compared the cost of Gale's cutters with others, but the prices for these—$12 to $20—are, we think, rather below other machines of equal or less capacity.

GROUND OATS.—A late number of the American Veterinary Journal contains the following article on the value of ground oats:

Ground oats furnish more nutriment, and keep the bowels in better condition, than when served out whole. By grinding the oats we separate them into a myriad of particles, and present them to the gastric solvents in a form calculated to secure their speedy digestion—in fact, they are in a condition favorable to speedy insalivation.

Ground oats are more nutritious than *whole*, for the same reason that flour is more so than unground wheat.

Ground oats contain more of the nitrogenous, or flesh-making principle, than any other kind of horse food; at the same time they furnish a mixture of coarse and fine food—the husks of the oats constitute the first, and meal the latter. The coarse material serves to keep the bowels in a soluble condition—irritate and excite the mucous coat, and thus obviate the necessity for drastic medicine. This kind of food is decidedly the healthiest for working horses. They require, however, a certain quantity of sweet hay, in view of distending the stomach to a healthy capacity.

MANURE HEAPS.—One of our foreign exchanges, has a communication from Mr. Robert Austin, Manchester, who says that upwards of a tun of horse dung is produced in his stables daily, and the usual offensive odor and evaporation from it entirely prevented by sprinkling over the dung heap, by means of an ordinary water can, a solution of a pound of common green copperas in a gallon of water.

TO THE PEOPLE OF NEW-JERSEY.

The State Agricultural Society has now been in existence for nearly one year. Its origin was in the desire which manifested itself in various sections of our State for an organization similar to those which were producing such beneficial results in other States, and its objects were the exhibition of our actual condition, the more thorough development of our resources, and the discovery and application of such means as would most benefit New-Jersey, especially through the Agricultural and Manufacturing interests.

In fulfilment of these objects, the officers have endeavored to present the Society in its true light to their fellow citizens. Aware of the slanderous accusations so freely uttered against this State, they had prepared a statistical statement, in which from authentic sources were presented undeniable facts to refute mischievous error, and which, in its wide circulation, gave to the people what at once instructed and interested. Seeds, documents, &c., have been freely circulated, but the first Exhibition of the Society, has been emphatically *the feature* of their operations. No one visited the Fair at Camden having the least interest in our present condition or future advancement, but was impressed with its importance and triumphant results. It was the first effort, and made amid discouraging circumstances, but it was successful. The people of New-Jersey were brought together; new implements, seeds and processes were placed under personal inspection; opinions were advanced, sentiments exchanged, and the basis for more extensive usefulness securely laid.

Thus much has been accomplished, but it is desired to still further increase the benefits of the Society. It is intended to establish correspondence and exchanges with the societies of other States and Countries, and to glean from them the fullest possible information which shall tend to the advancement of Agricultural interests; the same to be freely and widely disseminated. County organizations and Farmers' Clubs should be established, and those means be employed which shall best promote the interchange of ideas, and the circulation of practical and profitable knowledge.

In this work the influence and coöperation of all, is requested. The payment of one dollar constitutes one a member for the current year, entitling a person to all its advantages, admission to Fair, &c. Will not the reader become a member, or if already such, endeavor to excite an interest in his vicinity in behalf of this useful Society? Jerseymen must respect such a cause!

The Annual Meeting will be held at Trenton, on the 3d Tuesday of January, 1856, (15th.)—Col. B. P. JOHNSON, of the New-York State Agricultural Society, will deliver an address on the occasion. All are respectfully invited to attend.

On behalf of the Executive Board,
J. H. FRAZER, Cor. Secretary.

☞ Newspapers throughout New-Jersey are respectfully requested to insert the above.

Horticultural Department.

RAISING PLUMS—A CONVENIENT CURCULIO TRAP.

Almost every month for a few years past, some new "infallible" remedy for the destruction of the curculio has appeared. Some of these have been published, while the fortunate discoverers of others have not been generous or public-spirited enough to let their neighbors into the secret without a prepaid bonus from the public, or the public's servant—the Government.

But, after all, we have advanced little beyond the old, original remedy of jarring the "critters" into a sheet and burning them. We are indebted to Dr. E. S. Hull, of Alton, Ill., for an ingenious and convenient arrangment for doing this—not before published, we believe—which is worthy of description. It is unpatented, and any one can fit out his own apparatus.

It consists essentially of a light circular frame, covered with canvass, and placed upon a wheel-barrow. This frame, which is 10 to 15 feet in diameter, according to the general size of the trees, is constructed in the shape of an inverted umbrella—the center resting in the middle of the barrow—thus forming a kind of broad, hollowing dish, with a box under the center for catching whatever falls upon the canvass and rolls down into the middle. An opening or slit, wide enough to admit the body of the tree, is made from the front part of the frame nearly to the center. In the back part of this slit, and over a point just forward of the wheel, a jarring block or "ram" is placed, the front of which is covered with a piece of India rubber or of felt, or a few thicknesses of an old hat, to prevent barking the tree.

The apparatus being thus arranged, the operator takes the long handles and wheels it around the orchard. He runs under each tree—the tree passing into the slit, so as to bring the apparatus under all the branches—and giving two or three blows with the "battering ram," the curculios are brought down upon the canvas and tumbled into the receiving box, together with the decaying plums, &c. The sides of the canvas should be quite steep, so that the motion of the barrow will carry everything falling upon the canvas down into the box.

One man with this apparatus can go over an orchard of three or four hundred trees during the forenoon. This should be commenced on the first appearance of the curculios in May, and be continued at intervals until their disappearance in July. The best time for catching the insect is in the early part of the day. Dr. Hull informs us that he goes over the ground as often as he can catch curculios from a hundred trees.

This apparatus he has used for five years with unvarying success. It is certainly a simple arrangement, which can be cheaply constructed, and is worthy of general adoption by those who expect to succeed in raising plums.

The ravages of the curculio are becoming so general that it is hardly worth while for any one to attempt to do much at cultivating plums, unless he keep trees enough to employ a man to attend to them from the setting to the gathering of the fruit. When a good market is near, fifty trees are enough to do this with a fair profit.

Dr. Underhill, of Croton Point, however, has succeeded admirably in raising plums, by setting the trees around artificial ponds, and leaning them over the water. The insect instinctively avoids depositing its eggs where the young are exposed to certain destruction the moment they drop from the trees.

We learned, in our conversation with Dr. Hull, of an experiment he made sometime since, which militates against the various remedies founded on the theory of destroying the curculios that burrow in the earth around the base of the tree. Having destroyed the insects upon his own trees and packed the earth well under them, he soon found a new and plentiful supply of the depredators. In order to ascertain whether these, contrary to the received opinion, had come from a neighbor's, he caught a large number of them, applied whitewash to their backs with a feather, and carried them to the neighboring trees. In a short time he again found upon his own trees a large proportion of the "spotted" insects. They had evidently learned the way, and proved that they have migratory habits.

MARKET PEARS.

The two most highly renowned pears for market, are the Bartlett and Virgalieu (or Doyenné.) Fine Bartletts were bought at about eight or nine dollars per barrel the past season, in the eastern cities; and single specimens are often sold for twelve and a half cents each—sometimes more than tripple this amount. This sort possesses, eminently, a very desirable quality for marketing, namely, that of ripening well and assuming all its delicious flavor, if picked a fortnight before full maturity, and even if not quite fully-grown. They may thus be sent long distances by railroad without inconvenience or detriment; and if kept excluded from the light, will mature with a handsome and brilliant blush, of which the same specimens would be destitute if ripened in the light. The productiveness of the Bartlett and its early bearing, also strongly recommend it. We have raised about a peck from a tree, set out the year before, when an inch in diameter. When the tree becomes large its bearing qualities are not lessened. We never saw heavier crops of any pear, than those the present season on the old trees standing on the clay grounds of Lewis F. Allen, of Black Rock—(corresponding Editor of the American Agriculturist,) the large specimens nearly touching each other, on the branches, bending, almost like weeping willows, under their loads.

But the Bartlett has some draw t
is unusually liable to the fire-blight; and the fruit matures during the continuance of the peach season, and few would pay a dollar per peck for the pears, when they can procure the most delicious peaches for a dollar per bushel.

In this respect the Virgalieu has decidedly the advantage of the Bartlett. It is much less liable to blight, and its period of maturity is long after the quickly-perishable fruits have gone. Its quality is unsurpassed for most palates; and its wide-spread reputation renders it exceedingly saleable.* These qualities have placed it far above any other autumn variety throughout western New-York and in many other places, although in most localities along the sea-board it is worthless from cracking. We should object on this account to recommending its exclusive or even very extensive cultivation, for if once fine at Boston and now deteriorated, there is a possibility that the same result may take place elsewhere. Even as far west as Cayuga County, the scab and cracking are becoming quite common, and it is not unknown in Ohio.

It becomes desirable, therefore, for those who would have more than one leg to their stools, to look to other varieties. There are very few sorts that ripen before peaches—but these few may be worthy of attention, as pears will keep longer after picking and bear longer carriage than some other perishable fruits. Unfortunately there are very few sorts that are early enough to come in decidedly in advance of peaches, and among these few, the summer Doyenne (Doyenne d'ete) and Madeleine are undoubtedly the best *very* early sorts. The Giffard, Osband, and Bloodgood, verge very closely on early peaches.

The late autumn pears are so far superior in quality to those which may be termed strictly the *harvest* varieties, that they must be mainly looked to for profitable market culture. Besides the Virgalieu, the following give great promise—and although well known to pomologists have not as yet been extensively produced from orchards.

Louise Bonne of Jersey.†—Well known as a large, very handsome, early bearing, and exceedingly productive variety, especially when grown on the quince, on which it flourishes with great vigor.

Buffum—also well known for its vigorous growth and great productiveness, succeeding on both pear and quince, but always to be preferred on the former for orcharding. It is of only medium size, but possesses an excellent flavor—and will be always valued for the facility with which a given quantity of the fruit may be raised.

Flemish Beauty.—This admirable pear has several excellent qualities. It is large, handsome in form, fine, buttery and melting in texture, and delicious in flavor. The tree is a strong, vigorous and handsome grower, and uniformly productive of fair fruit. Its only objection is a tendency to drop too easily

* A fruit dealer sent several barrels of this pear to New-York City—a part labelled as Virgalieu, and the rest as White Doyenne. The "Virgalieus" sold for about double the amount obtained for the "Doyennes"!!

† This long name ought to be shortened to "Jersey Louise." (There is another "Louise Bonne.") Some pomologists persist in spelling it full in French, "Louise Bonne de Jersey," in order to avoid a mixture of English and French, but fail in the attempt, for they never give it a pure French pronunciation.

from the tree when nearly or about ripe, which we think may be remedied effectually by gathering before maturity. Mostly fails on quince.

Howell.—A new Connecticut variety that has acquired in a very few years a high reputation—being rather large in size, fair and handsome, bearing early and proving exceedingly productive. In flavor it is not equal to the Buffum and Flemish Beauty, but is, taken altogether, a most desirable sort. These four varieties ripen nearly at the same time, or about the close of the peach season.

The *Beurre d' Anjou*, is rather later, the tree a fine even bearer of rather large size, with a fine grained, buttery and melting texture, and a high, rich, and excellent flavor.

The *Onondaga* or Swan's Orange, is a very large and showy fruit, and although of only second-rate quality, it is valuable for its uniform productiveness, early bearing, and strong, healthy growth. Best on pear stocks.

LATE AUTUMN AND WINTER VARIETIES.

Beurre Clairgeau. This is a newly introduced foreign variety, and its large size, beautiful appearance, good quality, productiveness, and late-autumn ripening, have rendered it a decided favorite among fruit raisers. Should its high promise continue, it may yet become extensively cultivated for market; a barrel of the finest rosy-cheeked specimens, on the approach of winter, would certainly command almost any price within the range of the market scale. Succeeds on both pear and quince.

Beurre Diel, an older and well know sort, is a large, rich, and fine pear, the tree growing vigorously, and yielding good crops. It succeeds finely, usually the best on quince.

Beurre d' Aremberg, long cultivated and well known, produces abundantly, and ripens near the close of autumn. For those who like a high, vinous flavor, it probably has no equal for its season; it is hardly showy enough to command the market to the best advantage. It should be cultivated on pear roots, with a rich soil.

Glout Morceau, ripening about the same time as the Aremberg, is a sweeter pear; succeeds admirably on the quince, but does not produce abundantly till several years of age.

Vicar of Winkfield, is scarcely equaled for its productiveness, the fruit being large and always fair. It continues to ripen for several weeks in succession. Unfortunately its quality is only second rate, but much depends on skill in ripening; for while the Aremberg will mature with almost no care in a common cellar, the Winkfield must be brought into a warm room just at the right time, or when maturity approaches, to complete the process.

Lawrence. With the exception of the Virgalieu, perhaps no pear is so well adapted for the market; it is hardly equal to the Virgalieu in quality, but coming a month or two later, gives it a high value. It is full medium in size, fair in appearance, and the tree an abundant bearer on pear roots. It ripens late in autumn, and often as late as mid-winter. No orchardist need fear to set out plenty of the Lawrence.

Prince's St. Germain, is a medium sized fruit, of fine quality, the tree hardy, thrifty, and productive—it is later than the Lawrence, and well worthy of market culture.

Easter Beurre. This pear, *when in perfection*, is unequaled by any winter pear. It keeps into spring. Most cultivators think it decidedly best on quince roots. It needs rich and good cultivation, in common with many other pears, to bring its qualities to full perfection. A fully grown and well ripened specimen is as much better than a small imperfectly grown and poorly ripened one, as an early York peach is better than a baswood chip.

The *Doyenne d' hiver*, is a new sort, nearly or quite as long a keeper as the Easter Beurre, rather smaller in size, fair and handsome, and of excellent quality. The tree is vigorous and productive. Of course it needs further trial, before extensive planting.

Besides the varieties we have named, there are several others among the newer sorts that may yet prove valuable for orcharding, among which the *Sheldon*, *Nouveau Potieau*, *Beurre Sterkman*, *Zephirin Gregoire*, *Sieulle*, and others, are worthy of attention. *Winter Nelis*, well known as the highest flavored early winter pear, is too small and not sufficiently showy for market. *Beurre d' Amanlis* is an exceedingly productive and very strong-growing sort on both pear and quince, with large fruit, ripening at mid-autumn, but like the Onondaga, Winkfield, and others, is only second-rate in quality.

On the whole, if we were about planting extensively for market, with a few sorts only, we should select Bartlett, Virgalieu, Louise Bonne Jersey, and Flemish Beauty, among autumn sorts; and Lawrence and Easter Beurre, among winter varieties. As long as mankind have such an appetite for good fruit, which they appear to have possessed for several thousand years, we do not fear but that all excellent fruit that is raised will sell well; and the more delicious sorts will always command great respect in market. Among winter and spring pears, especially, we should like to see an attempt made to produce a surplus; while at present not one man in ten thousand has even seen a single barrel of good well ripened pears at mid-winter or in spring, and all the trees that are now growing would come no nearer to supplying our myriads of population, than the cataract of Niagara could be fed by emptying water from an egg shell.—Co. Gent.

SUGAR CANE.—The Boston Bee says, "We have on our desk a portion of a sugar cane stalk, grown in suburban Dorchester, on the grounds of Mr. Benj. Hemmenway. The stalk grew twelve feet high, and is one inch in diameter near the root. It is full of sap, of a delicious sweetness. It was planted in may last, the seed having come from China. It was cultivated in the same manner as corn. From this sample the question arises—and it is an important and interesting one—can sugar cane be raised in our climate and region?

TRANSPLANTING APPLE TREES.

In the first place, all those who have it in contemplation to plant trees for an orchard, should select a good location, which should be land of a gravelly loam, sloping to the south as near as can be, and if a little stony so much the better. Dig your holes for the reception of the trees, at least twice as large as will be occupied by its roots; a rod from the fence and a rod and a half to two rods apart each way in straight lines, according to the dimensions of the field. The trees to be planted should be of good size, two years from the bud, with handsome, straight trunks and the limbs branching out four or five feet from the ground. It would be well to procure the best, as in the end they are the cheapest. With the help of an assistant to hold the tree in a perpendicular position, proceed to place the roots in a straight line from the tree; then put some fine mold underneath and around the small roots and fibers, leaving no place not filled up as it should be; and pressing the dirt gently down with the foot. See that the trees are set in straight lines both ways, so as to show some taste, as well as for profit; for there is something pleasing to the eye of a person passing by, to see them coming into line in several directions. After a person has set his trees he should take especial pains not to have them injured in any way whatever, when working his cattle among them, by breaking the limbs, jamming off the bark and disturbing roots.

Having been to some labor and expense of purchasing the best trees and planting them, he should keep an eye on the best course to be pursued as regards their management. Now what is to be done to insure success? Why simply the observance of a few rules that must be strictly adhered to. First the ground among the trees should be kept in cultivation *every* year with some kind of hoed crop; and be liberal in the application of some good manure, spread on and well worked in with the plow and harrow. The trees should be washed every year with strong soap-suds to keep the bark smooth and healthy and free from moss. I would here caution people against a wash for trees that I once used, which was from a recommendation I saw in some book or paper, and that was a pound of potash to two gallons of water. After I had washed about a dozen trees it had eaten through the skin of my fingers, and so I reduced it with more water. It also turned the bark of the trees white, which can be seen to this day.

Now as to the best time of the year to trim trees, there are as many minds as can be imagined. Some think the winter is the best, because they have more time to attend to it. That should not be any reason why we should take such a time for the work, as the bark gets discolored below the wounds occasioned by the removal of limbs, and induces decay. The time in my opinion to trim trees, is in the month of June, when the wounds will speedily heal, and be the least detrimental to the tree. Every one having young trees, should have a good prun-

ing-knife and saw, so that when the proper time comes, he may give the tree its right shape and form, removing all limbs that may cross and chafe each other, giving it the form of an inverted umbrella as near as can be.

When any one has planted an orchard, he should not get discouraged, but work with a will, and keep the ground in good tilth among the trees, as it is in the kitchen garden. He should not be satisfied with a few inches growth made in a year, but as far as lies in his power, make a growth of from one to two feet; and he will have the satisfaction in being rewarded for his labor at a day not far distant. No man can give too much of his time, or bestow too much care upon his trees. It is the great secret in bringing them to perfection. What satisfaction and delight it must be to the owner of an orchard in full bearing, to see his trees, reared by his own hands, bending under their loads of fruit, rewarding him for his toil and labor, in profit and pleasure!

In regard to the profits of raising fruit, it must be admitted I think, that it is more profitable than anything else a farmer can raise. The crops raised among the trees while they are growing, will more than pay the expenses of their culture; and after they have come into bearing, nothing need be done but to keep the ground plowed every year. The prices that good apples usually sell at, will keep in ratio with the population at least for the next half century.—J. U., in New-England Farmer.

A Boon to Dahlia Growers.—A very useful little article has been invented and registered by Mr. Edwards, of St. Paul's-square, Birmingham, for the destruction of that universal pest, the earwig. The article in question is placed on the top of the Dahlia stick, in the same manner as the inverted flower pots; it is made of japanned tin, and is so constructed that when the earwigs have entered it they find it impossible to get out. The trap has been placed in the hands of Mr. C. J. Perry, the well known amateur of Birmingham, who has thoroughly tested it during the late season. Mr. Perry reports as follows:

"In my opinion the invention is complete, no obstruction whatever being offered to the entrance of the insects, and I found that a little sugar being placed inside the trap carried such an attraction that in a few days the trap contained a living mass of the destructive and noxious creatures. The lid is made to open so that the trap can be emptied in a moment; but its principal recommendation is the fact that it is not necessary to remove it daily to destroy the earwigs, as their detention being positive the grower can inspect his traps at his leisure, or they may even be allowed to remain during an entire season."

If the inventor can produce the earwig trap at a moderate cost we feel assured that the demand will be very great, as not only Dahlias but many other florists' flowers suffer considerably from the ravages of earwigs.—London Florist.

Help the needy, that your needs be helped.

CURING AND PRESERVING MEAT.

As this is the season when farmers are laying in their store of meat for the year, a few remarks upon its selection and preservation will be appropriate. In selecting swine, those breeds that are small-boned, with small ears and thin skin, have our preference, both for fattening and for use. A pig which, moderately fatted, at sixteen months old weighs about 300 pounds, in our estimation, is better pork than another one, or even the same, giving the same weight at eight months. Where fat is the only desideratum the young pigs would take precedence; but where we wish a firm broadside, not shrinking or turning to lard in boiling, but remaining solid, though not gristly and hard; a good juicy spare-rib, with the lean well streaked with fat on the rib, at least two inches thick, and with tender hams weighing twenty pounds, and the coating of fat on them not more than one inch thick, the animal must be at least a year old.

Of all breeds we have tried, the Berkshire and its crosses have proved the best. The Suffolk, although we have not tested them, we think would furnish too little lean in proportion to the fat for our use.

Having obtained the right animals, they should be killed at any time after cold weather sets in, so that the meat may cool thoroughly and keep during the process of curing; but it is better not to allow it to freeze. It may be cut up and packed safely the same day it is killed, even while it is warm, but it is better to take the lard out and defer cutting till the next day, as it can be done much neater when it has acquired some firmness. Cut the spare rib so as to retain all the lean meat between it and the broadside, as it will shrink up and become hard if salted. The broadsides should be cut up in strips crosswise, about six inches wide, and closely packed edgewise in a barrel with plenty of good clean salt between each layer. Cold water may be added to cover the meat, or brine containing all the salt it will dissolve. As the salt between the meat dissolves, the brine will sink a little, but the meat must be kept covered. A flat stone may be placed on it to keep it from swimming, as fat meat is lighter than brine. There is no danger of its being too salt, and following these directions you will never have rusty pork.

We have tried various recipes for curing hams, but have never found any superior to what is called the "Knickerbocker pickle."

Rub the hams thoroughly with fine salt, especially about the bone, and then thrust in a piece as large as a chestnut, and let them lie on a plank to drain for two days; then pack them loosely in a barrel, and cover them with the brine made as follows:

Six gallons of water, nine pounds of salt, one quart of molasses, three pounds of brown sugar, three ounces of saltpetre, and one ounce of saleratus. Boil the whole well and skim, and when cold pour it on the meat, which should be entirely covered by it. This will make brine enough for about one hundred pounds. In two or three weeks take up the hams and re-pack them, and after laying in the brine as much longer, they may be smoked till they are a fine chestnut brown. Hickory chips and cobs make the best smoke, which should not be confined, but allowed to pass off freely, so as to dry as well as smoke the meat; but the fire must not be hot enough to burn or heat it. Before warm weather the hams may be inclosed in thick unbleached cotton bags, hanging loosely about them, but tied tightly about the string of the ham, and suspended from the roof in a dry *well* ventilated garret, where they will be safe from the attacks of rats and insects, and will keep the year round, rather improving in quality.

Beef is better not to be cut up for several days, depending upon the temperature. For corning and drying it may receive the same treatment as the hams, except the brine for the corned beef must be scaled before warm weather, or whenever a scum appears on the top, and a little more salt and molasses. A little saleratus is also useful, as the rapid effervescence proves when it is put in; but do it before it boils, or it will run over. If too much salt is added to render the beef agreeable, soak it over night in cold water, and you may thus freshen it to your fancy.—Home stead.

ABOUT MANURE SHEDS.

When we *see* a reasonable scheme in successful operation, we feel more of its force—it stirs us more—than anything we may only *hear* of it. So thought a certain farmer—or at least so acted he—when he went to work the other day to build *a manure shed*. He had often heard it remarked that manure kept under shelter was worth double that left exposed in the yard—he had often noticed the difference in its smell, texture, and appearance on his own premises—but he had never tried the two, side by side, in a fair experiment, until the present year. Now he *saw* the difference in value, he believed what he had been told, and he went to work to build a manure shed, so as to reap more of the benefits now so evident.

It is not to be supposed that the story of his experiments will convince all who read it; he had read just as good, long before he really began to "show his faith"—in the only true way of showing it—"by his work." But it is "good enough to tell" for all that, and we hope, will not be without its influence. He has two good-sized open sheds attached to his barnyard, which his cows occupy for shelter at will in stormy weather. He keeps his oxen and horses in close stables, and these, as well as the sheds, are kept well littered through the winter. The manure from the stables is thrown into the yard; that made under the sheds remains there; both have a sufficient mixture of straw to prevent too active fermentation. And both, were they in the same situation in regard to shelter, would be of equal value.

Last spring, he determined to test the difference as closely as he could, without going into any minute figuring or preparations, for that is too small business in his eyes, for one with so much work to attend to. So, on his corn and barley ground, he took

pains to draw the manure from the yard and from the sheds in equal quantities—though he said he did not think it was hardly fair, for in the yard manure he had to cart off a large quantity of water, making—if there were no other difference—a sheltered load worth one-third more than an unsheltered one. (This was the first idea that really *hit* him on the subject. He saw he could save the cost of a simple shed, just in the expense of *cartage*.) Both kinds were treated in the same manner—the crops were sowed and cultivated the same; but he did not need to wait until harvest to decide that *he would shelter his manure*, hereafter.

Where the sheltered manure was applied, the corn and barley came up first; and they kept ahead all the season. The cut-worm worked less in the corn, and the barley seemed to escape all injury from insects—though that part to which the yard manure was applied, suffered from the Hessian fly to a small extent. The difference in the two was very plainly marked, and at harvest it was estimated that the shed manured land gave a crop one-third greatest.

Now our friend has erected two manure sheds. One covers the dung heap from his horse stable, the other is intended to contain that from his cattle stalls, and the major part of the yard droppings, gathered from day to day. Some time, we doubt not, he will go into manure cellars, and stables for all his stock; but this move is a creditable one, and in the right direction. He will also learn the benefit of muck as a material for cheaply increasing his stock of manure, and then we shall see a shed for *that*, to be used as an absorbent of the liquid—now, something *stronger* than rainwater, and worth saving and cartage.

His sheds are simple and cheap affairs.—Crotched posts are set for the front, the back is the barnyard fence—one shed is covered with boards—the other with poles and straw. We expect to hear more of their success or failure hereafter. That other improvements will follow, is very sure; for a good example, specially if a man sets it himself, is certain of influence on those who see it.—Rural New-Yorker.

MILK FOR CHILDREN.

There is much force in the reasoning of Dr. Heckerman, of Tiffany, Ohio, in regard to the unfitness of the milk of breeding cows for children. It is the generally received opinion of physicians that under certain conditions of the mother infants should be weaned without delay. But the great proportion of milk from cows is liable to the same objections. It was found by the chemist Lasigne that the milk drawn from cows for sometime previous to calving was devoid of caseine, milk-sugar and lactic acid, but abounded in albumen and uncombined soda; while after parturition the first three substances were found in due proportions and the albumen was absent.

May we not attribute to this cause much of the mortality among children? The remedy is simple. Let children be fed only upon the milk of farrow cows, or of those which have been spayed.

SOMETHING FOR THE BOYS.

"A boy"—who gets up as good a letter as many men—writes us that he has sent a large number of subscribers to the American Agriculturist, and means to send several new ones to begin the year; and he wants to know why we do not have a "Boys' Column." We are much obliged to him, and to several other boys who have, from time to time, taken a copy as a specimen and gone around and procured a list of new names for the Agriculturist. We hope many will do so now to begin this new year with. Boys can do a good deal in this way. We got up a large list, when a boy, for Judge Buel's agricultural paper, and this was our first *business* as a "newspaper man."

But how about that question? We will tell you, boys. We think almost all our articles in this paper are plain enough for boys, and just as appropriate for them as for men; and we do not quite like to make up a column of "small talk"—as much as to say, "Here, boys, is something for you—the rest is for grown-up folks." We want you to read the whole paper. We have, however, a good story to tell you, which is especially applicable to those now forming habits for after life. Though you may not follow the same pursuit as Joseph, the economical and industrious habits, and the scrupulous honesty that led him to a high station and success in life, will do the same for you, whether you are farmers or follow any other occupation. Here is the story of

A PENNY.

Thirty years ago there was seen to enter the city of London, a lad about fourteen years of age. He was dressed in a dark smock-frock, that hid all his under apparel, and which appeared to have been made for a person evidently taller than the wearer. His boots were covered with dust from the high road. He had an old hat with a black band, which contrasted strangely with the covering of his head. A small bundle, fastened to the end of a stick and thrown over his shoulder, was the whole of his equipment. As he approached the Mansion House he paused to look at the building, and seating himself on the steps of one of the doors, he was about to rest himself; but the coming in and going out of half a dozen persons before he had time to finish untying his bundle, made him leave that spot for the open space, where the doors were in part closed.

Having taken from the bundle a large quantity of bread and cheese, which he seemed to eat with a ravenous appetite, he amused himself with all the eager curiosity of one unaccustomed to see similar sights.

The appearance of the youth soon attracted my curiosity, and gently opening the door, I stood behind him without his being in the least conscious of my presence. He now began rumaging his pockets, and, after a great deal of trouble, brought out a roll of paper, which he opened. After satisfying himself that a large copper coin was safe, he carefully put it back again, saying to himself, in a low tone, "Mother, I will remember your last words: "a penny saved is two-pence earned." It shall go hard with me before I part with you, old friend."

Pleased with this remark, I gently touched the lad on the shoulder. He started, and was about to move away, when I said:

"My good lad, you seem tired, and likewise a stranger in the city."

"Yes, sir," he answered, putting his hand to his hat. He was again about to move forward.

"You need not hurry away, my boy," I observed. "Indeed, if you are a stranger, and willing to work, I can perhaps help you to get what you require."

The boy stood mute with astonishment, and coloring to such an extent as to show all the freckles of a sunburnt face, stammered out,

"Yes, sir."

"I wish to know," I added, with all the kindness of manner I could assume, "whether you are anxious to find work, for I want a youth to assist my coachman."

The poor land twisted and twirled his bundle about, and after only placing his hand to his head, managed to utter an awkward answer, and said he would be very thankful.

I mentioned not a word about what I had overheard with regard to the penny, but inviting him into the house, I sent for the coachman, to whose care, I entrusted the new comer.

Nearly a month had passed after this meeting and conversation had occurred, when I resolved to make some inquiries of the coachman, regarding the conduct of the lad.

"A better boy never came into the house, sir; and as for wasting anything, bless me, sir, I know not where he has been brought up, but I really believe he would consider it a sin if he did not give the crumbs of bread to the birds every morning."

"I am glad to hear so good an account," I replied.

"And as for his good nature, Sir, there is not a servant among us that doesn't speak well of Joseph. He reads to us while we sup, and he writes all our letters for us. Oh, sir, he has got more learning than all of us put together; and what's more, he doesn't mind work, and never talks about our secrets after he writes our letters."

Determined to see Joseph myself, I requested the coachman to send him to the parlor.

"I understand Joseph, that you can read and write."

"Yes, sir, thanks to my poor dead mother."

"You have lately lost your mother, then?"

"A month that very day when you were kind enough to take me into your house, an unprotected orphan," answered Joseph.

"Where did you go to school?"

"Sir, my mother has been a widow ever since I can remember. She was the daughter of the village schoolmaster, and having to maintain me and herself with her needle, she took the opportunity of her leisure moments to teach me not only how to read and write, but to cast up accounts."

"And did she give you that penny which I saw you unroll so carefully at the door."

Joseph stood amazed, but at length replied with great emotion, and a tear stood in his eye.

"Yes, sir, it was the very last penny she gave me."

"Well, Joseph, so satisfied am I with your conduct, that not only do I pay to you a month's wages willingly for the time you have been here, but I must beg of you to fulfil the duties of collecting clerk to our firm, which has become vacant by the death of a very old and faithful assistant."

Joseph thanked me in the most unassuming manner, and I was asked to take care of his money, since I had promised to provide him with suitable clothing for his new occupation.

It will be unnecessary to relate how, step by step, this poor country lad proceeded to win the confidence of myself and partner. The accounts were always correct to a penny; and whenever his salary became due, he drew out of my hands no more than he absolutely needed, even to a penny. At length he had saved a sufficient sum of money to be deposited in the bank.

It so happened that one of our customers, who carried on a successful business, wanted an active partner. This person was of eccentric habits, and considerably advanced in years. Scrupulously just, he looked on every penny, and invariably discharged his workmen, if they were not equally scrupulous in their dealing with him.

Aware of this peculiarity of temper, there was no person I could recommend but Joseph; and after overcoming the repugnance of my partner, who was unwilling to be deprived of so valuable an assistant, Joseph was duly received into the firm of Richard Fairbrother & Co. Prosperity attended Joseph in his new undertaking, and never suffering a penny difference to appear in his transactions, he so completely won the confidence of his senior partner, that he left him the whole of his business, as he expressed in his will "even to the very last penny."

A HORSE STORY.

"The Nicholas Mare" was a beast of extraordinary speed and endurance. Like most rare animals, whether human or brute, she was eccentric in her habits. It matters not who owned her at the time of the incident we are about to relate. Suffice it to say that her owner was a sensible man, a thorough horseman; his predilection for horse flesh, more than anything else, having driven him into the livery business. Next to the wife of his bosom, he loved the Nicholas mare, a fact of which both females were sensible, without being at all jealous of each other. For this reason the mare was hired only to particular customers, and when let, the party hiring was always carefully instructed as to the peculiarities of the animal. A particular friend, unacquainted with the mare or her habits, and troubled with an impediment in his speech, as well as with a native infirmity of temper, which prevented him from exercising any charity for living creatures of slow or tardy motion, once applied to our livery man for a horse, for a journey of a dozen miles or so, undertaken for the purpose of bringing his wife home from her father's house on a visit. The contract ran thus:

"I w-w-want a horse—a good 'un—one that'll st st-st-start the minute that you s-s-sa-sa-say pwh-pwh-pwhist, an'll go like the wind."

"Suit you, I guess," was the reply.

The mare was put between the thills of a nice light buggy, her harness thoroughly adjusted by the owner, the reins carefully laid over the dashboard, and the usual chapter of advice opened concerning her management.

"Oh, g-g-git out with your directions; I c-c-can d-drive her, I guess," interrupted the lessee, and picking up the reins, he sprang for the seat, but landed heels up, upon the buggy bottom. The mare was off! but the driver, being game, had gained the command, as he thought, through the recovery of the lines, upon which he pulled as though resolved "to do or die." A slight smile was visible upon the demure face of the lessor, as the vehicle receded from sight, at a killing pace, and nothing more was known until the next day, when our friend with the impediment made his appearance with the mare, but *without* his wife. As he drove up a cloud o'erspread his face, as he saw the lessor at the stable door.

"W-w-what kind of an incarnate b-b-brute do you c-call this?"

"Best horse in the stable."

"W-w-well! I started for D—."

"Yes, I know it."

"W-w-well! before I *could* stop, went to H—, (22 miles;) drove back this morning. You k-kn-know father's door-yard—half a mile wide?"

"Yes. Well?"

"W-w-well, old man, me, b-br-bro-brother Jim, hired man, and a visitor, besides, t-t-tri-tried for two hours to get w-w-wife into the wagon, and couldn't do it; d-d-de-devilish critter danced college hornpike all r-roround an-an-and *over* some of us, but not a passenger could we get in."

"How, then, did you get in?"

"Tell you. Old man's as foxy as a lawyer. Told me to take her out. I did. Told me to g-g-get in. I did; and after I got in they hitched the mare, and h-he-here I be. W-w-wouldn't give a Spanish dollar for the mare, though she did come the twelve miles in f-for-forty-eight minutes."

"Why?"

"Look at my hands."

They were one blister. The lessor smiled.

"If you had listened to me, all this would have been avoided. Allow the lines to remain untouched until you are seated, and she never starts until you tell her. Drive her with a slack rein and she will go as you desire."

The truth of the statement was at once tested by trial, and resulted as was asserted, precisely;—but the driver was punished for his impatience, and ever, from that day, insists upon having a horse "that won't start the m-m-minute you say p-ph-phwist, and go like the wind."

Book Record.

All Books received—if not unworthy of notice—will be announced in this column by title, as soon as received. Further notices or reviews of Agricultural and Horticultural Books will be given—when their striking merits or demerits require it—after we have had time to thoroughly examine them.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE NEW-HAMPSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR 1854.—We are indebted to the Secretary, Mr. Jas. O. Adams, for a copy of this the Third Volume issued by the Granite State Society. It is a moderate-sized volume, of 400 pages, but large enough for all practical purposes. The editor, Mr. Adams, appears to have made the best possible use of the materials at hand. A cursory glance through the volume reveals several articles that we shall read with interest and profit.

THE NEST IN THE HONEY SUCKLE, and other Stories. Published by the American Sunday School Union, and to be obtained at the various depositories of this Association. This is a charming little volume of 192 pages, written by our correspondent, Anna Hope. It contains forty-two stories, many of them beautifully illustrated, and on such subjects and in just the style to please, instruct, and improve children. A capital thing for a holiday present.

REVIEW OF PRICES, WEATHER, &C.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST OFFICE,
NEW-YORK, Dec. 29, 1855.

Between the close of our last summary (Nov. 24) and the 10th of the present month, the Breadstuff Markets were as variable as the hight of the mercury in the thermometer, owing to the uncertainty of the time the Canals would be closed by ice. They were advertised to close "officially" on December 5th, but there was at one time strong fears that Jack Frost would step in and relieve the authorities from the necessity of sending the boats into winter quarters. With a limited stock of Wheat, Flour and Corn, on hand, every day's immense arrivals materially changed the complexion of affairs. The dealers in Breadstuffs studied the appearance of the clouds and the direction of the wind, by day, with the earnest attention of old sailors; and if reports be true, some of the largest speculators in flour sat up o' nights to watch the weather. But warm breezes and genial skies—not to add lenient Canal Commissioners—favored the inland farmers who had wheat to sell, and the starving multitude at the seaboard who must needs purchase it; the Canals remained open to the 10th inst, so that our winter supplies have been too great to admit of their being tossed about like a football, by the speculators. While the producers received fair remuneration, the consumers are not compelled to pay exhorbitant profits to go into the pockets of the middlemen, who last winter were able to control the market. Owing to this state of affairs, the transactions in breadstuffs have not been very large during the last five weeks—hardly equal to those of some single weeks previous. We have daily watched and recorded the principal sales, and our note-book shows the following results for the last 28 business days, not including Thanksgiving and Christmas, viz., of Flour, 441,450 barrels; of Wheat, 598,900 bushels; of Corn, 1,283,000 bushels; and of Rye, 359,500 bushels.

With an occasional fluctuation upward, the prices of flour, grain, &c., have experienced a gradual decline. The following figures show the comparative prices of some of the principal agricultural products at the two dates named:

	Nov. 24.	Dec. 29.
Flour—Ordinary State	$9 50@ 9 62	$8 25@ 8 31
Mixed Western.....	9 50@ 9 62	8 12@ 8 25
Favorite and Ex. State..	9 62@ 9 68	8 37@ 8 50
Extra Genesee	10 00@11 50	9 50@11 50
Wheat—Canada White	2 25@ 2 30	2 10@ 2 20
Western Red.....	2 00@ 2 09	1 90@ 2 00
Corn—Western Mixed.....	1 04@ 1 06	92@ 93
New Yellow and White	.. ..	80@ 94
Rye	1 28@ 1 30	1 30@ 1 31
Barley.....	1 20@ 1 30	1 20@ 1 25
Oats—Western	52@ 54	50@ 53
Cotton—Middling.....	9¼@ 9¼	9¼@ 9¼
Rice.....₱ 100lbs	4 62@ 5 25	4 25@ 5 62
Pork—Mess.....₱ bbl...	22 00@22 50	16 50@19 50
Dressed Hogs.....₱ lb....	8¼@ 8½	8@ 8½
Lard.....₱ lb....	12@ 12½	12@ 13
Butter—Western...₱ lb....	18@ 22	18@ 23
State.....₱ lb....	24@ 31	23@ 33

Grass seeds are scarce and high, and it will be an object for farmers to secure as large a supply as possible from such resources as they have at hand.

Beef cattle have been varied somewhat; the average of all sales this week was 9¼c.@9¾c. ₱ lb. net, against 9c.@9¼c. November 21st.

Apples are abundant, with only a slight advance, say 25c. per bushel, during the month.

Potatoes have scarcely changed during the month; the continued warm weather and large supplies keep prices very low. Carters are now wholesaled for $1 50@$1 75 per bbl.; Mercers for $1 62@$1 87. Onions—Reds, $1 75@$1 87 per bbl.; White, $1 75@$2 50.

Other articles of seasonable produce are stationary in price.

THE WEATHER has been unusually mild and pleasant during nearly the whole month. With the exception of a few inches fall on the 13th inst, we have had scarcely any snow up to this date. It is a remarkable fact that during the whole of December, previous to Christmas, the soil has hardly been frozen sufficiently to impede plowing during the middle of the day, and the ground has not been hard enough to bear one except for an hour or two, on two or three mornings. Not a bit of skating has been practicable in this vicinity. We had on the 27th, a cold change, which still continues, though an over coat is scarcely needed at mid-day.

Advertisements.

TERMS—(invariably cash before insertion):
Ten cents per line (of ten words) for each insertion.
Advertisements will be displayed in CAPITALS and leaded over as many lines space as are paid for.
No advertisement taken at less than one dollar.

RUSSIAN FOWLS.—A few pairs of very choice Fowls of this breed may be obtained by applying to the subscriber immediately. H. L. HYDE,
1850n108—9 Mystic, Ct.

WYANDOT PROLIFIC CORN FOR SALE.—The greatest agricultural wonder of the age.—Plant only one kernel, in hills four feet apart, at the north, and five to six at the south—yield 150 bushels per acre.
For circulars giving full particulars, address
J. C. THOMPSON,
1244n108—11 Tompkinsville, Staten Island, N. Y.

LARGE LOP-EARED RABBITS.—The above Rabbits for sale, in pairs or single. They are beautifully marked of various colors, and are pure and well bred.
Address, S. W. RODMAN, Boston, Mass.,
1247n108—9 Or the Editor of this Paper.

THOROUGH-BRED DEVON CATTLE, AND ESSEX PIGS, FOR SALE.
The subscriber now offers for sale a few superior Devon Heifers, bred by himself entirely from recently imported stock, and in calf by his last imported bull, "OMER PASHA," winner of the FIRST PRIZE, as yearling, at the Royal Show of England in 1855; as also a number of young Bulls and heifers, the get of his three imported Bulls "MEGUNTICOOK," "MAY-BOY," and "OMER PASHA," and out of imported Cows, or their progeny.
Also, constantly on hand, ESSEX PIGS, bred from the best imported stock.
For full particulars as to age, price, pedigree, &c., address,
C. S. WAINWRIGHT,
1246n108—119 Rhinebeck, Dutchess Co., N. Y.

TO
AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTUAL SOCIETIES.
WE would particularly invite the attention of those Societies, who are about to make up their
PREMIUM LISTS FOR 1856,
to our large collection of Agricultural Books, which are peculiarly adapted for Premiums.
The awarding of Agricultural Books in the place of small Money Premiums has been extensively adopted, and has given the highest satisfaction.
ADVANTAGES OF THIS PLAN.
It promotes the dissemination of much needed information among Farmers.
It combines the advantages of a Diploma with a Premium of intrinsic value.
It substitutes a Permanent and Expressive Token of Honor for the pittance which is frequently humiliating to the recipient.
It avoids the fostering of a mercenary spirit among competitors, and better comports with the dignity of an honorable emulation between friends and neighbors.
We will take pleasure in furnishing, to applicants, a Catalogue of our Publications, which we consider most appropriate for the use of Agricultural Societies for Premiums, on which a liberal discount will be given.
C. M. SAXTON & CO.,
Agricultural Book Publishers,
1c48n108 140 Fulton-st., New-York.

THREE GOOD JOURNALS FOR 1856!
Well adapted to all readers in every family:
LIFE ILLUSTRATED;
A FIRST CLASS FAMILY PAPER, devoted to News, Literature, Science, the Arts; to Entertainment, Improvement, and Progress. Published weekly at $2 a year.
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Devoted to all those Progressive Measures for the Elevation and Improvement of mankind. Illustrated. $1 a year.
For THREE DOLLARS, all three Papers will be sent a year.
FOWLER AND WELLS, 308 Broadway, New-York.
☞ Samples gratis. Agents wanted. Begin now!

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE N. Y. STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY will be held at the Capitol, Albany, on the 2d Wednesday (13th) of February. Premiums will be awarded on Farms, Essays, Grain and Root Crops, Grain and Seeds, Butter and Cheese, Draining, Irrigation, Winter Fruits, &c.
B. P. JOHNSON, Sec'y.
Agricultural Rooms, Albany: Jan. 1, 1856. 1249n108—9

GENERAL DEPOT IN THE CITY OF NEW-YORK, FOR ALL DESCRIPTIONS OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND OTHER MACHINERY.
The undersigned having a large Manufactory for the purpose of making all kinds of Plows, Harrows, Seed-Sowers, Harvesters (Mowing and Reaping machines and Grain Cradles of the most approved patent), Threshing and Winnowing machines, Horse Powers, Carts, Wagons, Axes, Hoes, &c.; and having in addition, a large Warehouse for the reception and sale of most kinds of machinery, such as TURNING LATHES, PLANING MACHINES, for both wood and iron, MORTICING and TENONING machines for wood, &c., is prepared to execute orders promptly and in the most satisfactory manner, for all kinds of American tools and implements suitable for EUROPE, AUSTRALIA, SOUTH-AMERICA, and all parts of the World.
Having been engaged for many years in New-York in manufacturing and exporting the above machinery, the undersigned is not only thoroughly conversant with the wants of foreign markets, but familiar with boxing, shipping, &c. Orders need only to be addressed, with remittances, to receive prompt attention,
R. L. ALLEN,
Dec. 1855. New-York Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 189 and 191 Water-st., New-York.

THOROUGH-BRED NORTH DEVON AND SHORT HORN CATTLE FOR SALE.
The subscribers now offer for sale five thorough-bred Devon Cows, two yearling Heifers, two yearling Bulls, and four Bull and Heifer Calves.
Also, one Short Horn Bull, 12 months old, from a prize Cow and Bull, and three Short Horn Bull Calves.
For Pedigrees of the above, reference can be had to the Catalogues of the subscriber, which will be forwarded by mail on application.
We have also for sale a few Long-wooled New Oxfordshire SHEEP, consisting of yearling Ewes and Bucks and Buck Lambs. WM. L. COWLES & SON,
106—8n1242 Farmington, Ct.

THE LITTLE GIANT

CORN and COB CRUSHER, to work with one or more horses, the best machine in use for this purpose.
For sale, of various sizes and prices, by R. L. ALLEN, 189 and 191 Water-st.

NEW-ROCHELLE BLACKBERRY.—Genuine Plants from the Original stock, deliverable in November, March or April, or sale by ISAAC ROOSEVELT,
95—120n1213 Pelham, Westchester Co., N. Y.

A DESIRABLE COUNTRY RESIDENCE FOR SALE—Situated in the beautiful village of Wallingford, Ct. The Real Estate consists of seventy acres of fine land, suitably portioned into grazing, tillable and wood land. A large quantity of fruit trees, such as apples, pears, and plums, are in bearing condition on the place. The land is so situated that the owner can stand near his house and take a full view of his whole farm. On the premises is a substantial, modern built dwelling house, and spacious out-buildings. Connected with the premises is a reservoir of water, which virtually supplies the barns and house, and is capable of being carried to every room in the dwelling. The water from this natural reservoir might be easily diverted so as to form large fish-ponds and beautiful fountains. The premises are situated half a mile from the center of the town, and about that distance from the Railroad, which connects New-York with Boston.
The location is eminently adapted to any person who wishes to enjoy life in the country and at the same time be accessible to the large cities. For particulars, inquire of ELIJAH WILLIAMS, on the premises, or of Messrs. ALLEN & CO., No. 189 Water-st., New-York. 106—8n1239

PORTABLE FORGES AND BELLOWS,
(QUEENS PATENT,)

THE best Forge in market for Blacksmiths' work, Boiler makers, Mining, Quarrying, Shipping, plantations, Contractors on Railroads and Public Works, Coppersmiths, Gas Fitters, &c., &c.
Also, an improved PORTABLE MELTING FURNACE for Jewellers, Dentists, Chemists, &c.
Both of these are constructed with sliding doors to protect the fire from wind and rain when used out doors, and for perfect safety and free escape of smoke when used indoors. They are compact for Shippping.
Circulars with particulars and prices will be forwarded upon application.
FREDERICK P. FLAGLER,
Sole Manufacturer, 210 Water-st., New-York.
85—136n1190eow

LAWTON BLACKBERRY.—Genuine Plants may be purchased of WM LAWTON,
83-108n1187 No 54 Wall-st., New-York

THE ATTENTION OF FARMERS is requested to a new FERTILIZER, prepared from the night soil collected from the sinks and privies of New-York city, by the LODI MANUFACTURING COMPANY, and manufactured without any adulteration whatever, into a powerful manure—something like guano, but less caustic and less exhausting to the soil. It is called
TAFEU,
from the Chinese word signifying prepared night soil, and is the only article of the kind ever manufactured in this country. It is warranted to be 95 per cent pure night soil; and from its ease of transportation and application, and the small quantity required to produce the same result as heavier manures, it is the CHEAPEST MANURE ever offered for sale. For grass in the fall, for winter grain, or for garden vegetables, it has no equal.
From 300 to 600 lbs. per acre is all the dressing required for the poorest soils. A fair trial in competition with other manures is respectfully asked. Packed in barrels of 240 lbs., or bags of 125 lbs. Price $35 per tun, or 1¾ cts. per lb., delivered free of cartage on board of vessels or railroads in the city of New-York.
For further particulars address
THE LODI MANUFACTURING COMPANY,
No. 60 Courtlandt-st., New-York.
P. S.—The L. M. Co. continue to keep on hand and for sale a large quantity of their celebrated POUDRETTE, an article which has stood the test of 16 years in this market, with a large yearly increase in the demand. Price $1.50 per bbl. for any quantity over 7 bbls. 99—121n1152

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